
LOUISA FORRESTER.

V O L. I.



^k
LOUISA FORRESTER;

OR,

CHARACTERS

DRAWN FROM

REAL LIFE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL I.

L O N D O N :
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IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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MDCCCXXXIX.

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

Lady MIDDLETON,

OF MIDDLETON.

MADAM,

PERMIT me to render this attempt to afford an innocent and useful amusement to the younger part of my own sex, in some degree respectable, by putting it under

under your Ladyship's protection ; conscious at the same time, that the most honourable name cannot give reputation to a work, which has no other claim to the public favour.

How imperfect soever the execution of the plan may appear, the intention was to place active and extensive benevolence, in an amiable and practicable point of view ; and to impress an idea, which cannot be too strictly adhered to, — that every deviation from virtue, and rectitude of heart, must be attended with mortification, disappointment, and misery.

The

The scheme led me, by an irresistible impulse, to inscribe it to LADY MIDDLETON ; who, I hope, with her accustomed lenity, will pardon my presumption, and permit me to subscribe myself,

HER LADYSHIP'S

MOST DEVOTED, AND MOST

OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT,

THE AUTHOR.

100

D E I G H T

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN SENATE, JANUARY 11, 1871.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
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THE VICTOR

LOUISA FORRESTER.

CHAPTER I.

PERSONS OF CONSEQUENCE INTRODUCED TO THE READER.

LOUISA was the only child of Captain Forrester, who died when she was about seven years old, and left her to the care of a most amiable and sensible mother; with an annuity for Mrs. Forrester's life, barely sufficient to support them with decency, in the style they had been accustomed to. This she thought proper considerably to retrench, and re-

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tir'd to lodgings in a pleasant village about fifty miles from London; where she cou'd live cheap, out of the notice of her former acquaintance, and bestow all her time and care in the education of her beloved Louisa. As Mrs. Forrester knew, if it pleas'd Heaven to grant her a long life, it was as much as she could hope for to save a genteel independence for her darling child, she endeavour'd to suit Louisa's mind to her condition. She could not so far run in her taste for the polite arts, as to bring up her daughter a mere unpolish'd rustic; tho' she frequently thought, that might have had the greatest tendency to make her pass thro' life with ease and composure, as wife to some industrious tradesman, or as a single woman in narrow circumstances. But these thoughts were no sooner form'd than rejected—and she determin'd to exert her utmost abilities to cultivate the under-

understanding of her amiable girl, and to supply her mind with such a fund of accomplishments, as should yield her a perpetual source of rational and elegant amusements; and enable her to appear with credit in a more exalted station, if her beauty, united with these accomplishments, should advance her to it: as, in the pleasing ebullitions of maternal fondness, she would sometimes flatter herself it might. Mrs. Forrester was a woman of excellent sense, and had enjoyed every advantage that education could bestow. Her father was a counsellor; a man much esteemed for his professional abilities, and oblig'd to support the etiquette of his station. He had several children to bring up in such a manner, as not to discredit their family; and perhaps he paid more attention to elegance and ostentation, than prudence or œconomy. Amelia was his youngest

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child; she discover'd from her infancy the strongest proofs of genius; and her father took particular delight in marking the bright dawns of her superior intellects, and resolv'd she should have every opportunity of improvement. He carefully sought for the best preceptors in every accomplishment, which could form the highest female character; and to his extreme satisfaction, she improv'd in such an astonishing manner, that she almost outstripped her tutors: such an avidity had she for knowledge, that no difficulties could discourage her; and her application surmounted the most arduous pursuits. She was an adept in music, painting, and geography, and perfect mistress of the French and Italian languages; uncommonly excellent in every kind of ornamental needle-work, and had an elegant turn for poetry; of a most mild and amiable disposition; the pride
of

of her parents and the delight of her acquaintance; when she was left an orphan at the age of nineteen: and, after being accustomed to live in every degree of elegance, she found herself, (when her grief was sufficiently subsided, to examine into pecuniary matters) possessed of no more than fifteen hundred pounds; when, according to her education and manner of living, as many thousands would have been deemed but just sufficient.

Tho' Amelia had made so rapid a progress in her studies, she had by no means liv'd a recluse life. From the time her mother thought proper to introduce her into company, she had constantly made one in all her parties; where her good sense and sprightliness added much to the entertainment of the company: yet she was modest and unassuming, as youth and feminine delicacy (with so liberal a

turn of mind, encouraged by her parents and friends) could be, without absolute bashfulness, and an unwillingness to please. But neither attention to her studies, nor her introduction into life, had enervated her mind, or depriv'd her of the power or inclination to apply to business when it appeared necessary; and this was the first time she had occasion to exercise the strength of her mind this way. She had three brothers who were bred up to genteel professions, and made shift to plod thro' the common forms without discredit; but not one of the three was possessed of the least degree of genius, generosity, or liberality of spirit. They all saw themselves outshone by the brilliant wit and elegant acquisitions of their sister, and therefore, instead of treating her with brotherly affection, they conceived a jealousy and invidiousness of her superiority; and determined to de-

prive

prive her of every thing at the death of her parents, but what the strictness of the law allotted her: and as they were much better skill'd in that than Amelia, it has been supposed that they might not do her strict justice.

Be that as it may, when she knew what her share amounted to, she began to cast about in her mind, how to make the best of it. As she found she had no favour to expect from her brothers, she employed a reputable gentleman of the law to settle her affairs with them, and to purchase an annuity in the funds with her little all; that she might be enabled to pursue her favorite studies and amusements, and appear in the circle of her friends as she was accustomed to do: for tho' she had as much prudence and as little vanity as most of her sex at her years, yet could she by no means satisfy

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herself with the idea of conforming to a dependant or inelegant situation.

Whether her Attorney made a good or bad bargain for her, must be determined by those who understand speculation and calculation better than Amelia, or her Biographer; but as her constitution was delicate and her way of life sedentary, he bought her an annuity of two hundred pounds per annum, and she went into genteel lodgings, with a favourite maid that had long attended her; where she saw what company she lik'd, and pass'd thro' life without any extraordinary adventures, till at the age of twenty-five she married Captain Forrester; a man of good sense and good character, rather attach'd to a life of gaiety than domestic retirement, which in his profession was not to be wondered at; but was extremely fond of his Amelia, and made her

her a most affectionate and indulgent husband: and as she had no tincture of the recluse or morose in her disposition, they liv'd as happy as one couple in ten thousand.

About nine years after their marriage the Captain caught a violent cold by going out of a crowded theatre in a severe frosty night, which brought on a decline, and terminated in his dissolution.

Amelia was the most sedulous nurse, during his long illness, and the most disconsolate widow after his decease: But considering her child as the dear memorial of her former happiness, and the only tender connexion she now had left upon earth, she roused her spirits from the stupor in which her grief had at first absorbed them, and determined to exert her prudence and abilities to the utmost, for

TO LOUISA FORRESTER.

the advantage of her Louisa. For that purpose she left London, as we have before mentioned; and the advantages she had received in early life, enabled her to lay the foundation of every accomplishment, in the tender and flexible mind of her child.

It was impossible for a woman of Mrs. Forrester's appearance to be long unnoticed, in a neighbourhood so thin of company as the village of Grove-Hampton; there were many decent families within its precincts, but few that had any claim to elegance or refinement. One Lady there was, who shone with peculiar lustre,—lustre not derived from her descent, which was noble, nor from her fortune which was large,—but from the innate graces and virtues of her mind; which beam'd forth with such mild dignity, such universal benevolence, as made
her

LOUISA FORRESTER. II

her admired, nay, almost ador'd by all who knew her..

This lady's name was Egerton, she had been a widow about three years, when Mrs. Forrester came to reside in her neighbourhood; she had a son and two daughters, her son ten years old, her eldest daughter (Julia) eight, Matilda six. The family estate was a good six thousand a year, one thousand of which was her jointure; her fortune, which was forty thousand pounds, was to devolve to her daughters when they came of age; and from the well-known worthiness of her character, Mr. Egerton had left her sole guardian to her children, with a further provision in case of her demise. This was the situation of the Egerton family, when Mrs. Forrester, and her little Louisa came to Grove-Hampton.

C H A P.

CHAP. II.

A PROPOSAL.

MRS. Egerton saw an elegant and amiable looking woman at Church, in the melancholy weeds of widow-hood, accompanied by a beautiful little girl, in deep mourning. Her heart was tremblingly alive to every appearance of distress, but that species which she had herself experienced with such intense sorrow, call'd forth all her sympathetic tenderness; and she lost no time in making enquiries after the lady who had engag'd her particular attention.

All

All she could learn was her name and place of residence; nor did she seek to know more, but resolv'd the next day to pay her a visit, not out of idle curiosity, but to learn if any thing in her power could alleviate the sorrows of the amiable mourner: for her own feelings had annex'd distress, in the highest degree, with the state of widow-hood. She sent a card the next morning, requesting leave to pay her respects to Mrs. Forrester, in the most genteel and condescending terms; she received a polite and grateful answer, in which Mrs. Forrester express'd a due sense of the favor intended her, and intreated to have the honor of seeing her that afternoon.

Mrs. Egerton, pleased with the Person of Mrs. Forrester, and still further prepossessed in her favor, by the genteel and sensible answer to her card, committed her

her darling daughters to the care of their governess, and set out at an early hour on her benevolent visit. She was received by Mrs. Forrester with the utmost gratitude, blended with such an happy tincture of ease and politeness, as still added to the partiality she had before conceived in her favour. Mrs. Egerton had a soul above harbouring groundless suspicions, and had her disposition been less noble, Mrs. Forrester's behaviour would soon have dispell'd all surmises to her disadvantage.

After the first compliments, they presently entered into such a sociable and unrestrained conversation, as congenial souls alone are capable of tasting; and from which Mrs. Egerton learnt, that Mrs. Forrester's circumstances, tho' above indigence, were yet below what they had formerly been; therefore she
deemed

deem'd her a proper person to partake of her liberality, in the most delicate manner she could contrive.

During her stay with Mrs. Forrester, the little Louisa was not unnoticed by her; she was charmed with the beauty and sprightliness of her person and deportment, and saw the propriety of behaviour, and good sense of the mother, shine forth in the chasten'd graces of the infantile daughter. She quitted Mrs. Forrester with regret, but not till she had engag'd her to spend the next day at Egerton-Park, and to bring the amiable Louisa; that she might introduce her to her daughters, as a companion she approved, and that they wanted, to enliven their hours of amusement, and to excite an agreeable emulation in their hours of instruction. With a promise of their attendance to dinner she departed, and

and spent many pleasing hours in forming a scheme for Miss Forrester's receiving all the advantages of a finish'd education, (which she might have been entitled to, had her father liv'd,) without any appearance of an obligation conferred; but rather as if a favor was done to herself, by her offer being accepted.

During her conversation with Mrs. Forrester the next day, every prepossession she had conceived in her favor was considerably increased. She seem'd to be a person form'd to afford her as much satisfaction and amusement as she was now capable of enjoying; and, that would assist her in filling up those portions of her time agreeably, that were not particularly allotted to retir'd devotion, or the instruction and conversation of her Children: for tho' she kept an accomplished governess in the house, she
did

did not (like too many modern mothers,) think she had, by that measure, acquitted herself of the great duty incumbent on her; but devoted much of her time to watching over their infant propensities, and forming their ductile minds to habits of tenderness, virtue, and piety: and in these momentous concerns she promised herself an able assistant, in a person of Mrs. Forrester's good sense and accomplishments, united with a great knowledge of the world; and one who had the tender and arduous task of a parent to perform as well as herself.

Mrs. Egerton introduced the lively Louisa to her children in the most affectionate manner, as the little friend she wished them to receive as a desirable addition to their society, and as a partaker of their instructions and amusements. The young ladies received their new friend
with

with inconceivable pleasure, and strove which should shew her the greatest marks of affection; whilst she received every testimony of favor with the highest complacency, and made every proper return.

Inexpressible was the delight the fond mothers experienced in beholding the happiness their children enjoyed in the sweetly innocent society of each other. But very different were their sensations; Mrs. Forrester's spirits sinking at the thoughts of what her dear Louisa might have been, had it pleased heaven to have prolonged her father's life:—And Mrs. Egerton's heart exulting in the plan she had form'd to unite Mrs. Forrester, and her child, to her own family, in such a manner as not to wound the most delicate feelings, by the least appearance of obligation.

Before

Before they parted, Mrs. Egerton said, in the most sweet and softened tone of voice, “ I perceive, my dear Mrs. For-
 “ refter, that a more intimate connexion
 “ with you, and your amiable child, is
 “ necessary to the portion of happiness,
 “ which is yet left me on earth; and
 “ what I much more value, the hap-
 “ piness of my beloved children. Your
 “ present residence is not quite so com-
 “ modious as I could wish; and it is
 “ much further from me than my own sa-
 “ tisfaction induces me to approve.
 “ Now, madam, I have a pretty, snug,
 “ convenient house, just at the end of
 “ the pleasure ground, which, my dear
 “ Mr. Egerton built for the residence of
 “ a relation, whom we both sincerely es-
 “ teemed; he lived in it about four years,
 “ and a most valuable acquisition his
 “ neighbourhood was to us; but on the
 “ death of a wife, whom he most tenderly
 loved,

“ loved, he could bear the scenes of his
 “ lost happiness no longer; and in spite of
 “ all our persuasions to the contrary, went
 “ abroad.”

“ This house has stood uninhabited
 “ since his departure, as I could not, ’till
 “ I had the happiness of meeting with
 “ Mrs. Forrester, think of any body I
 “ should like to have so nearly con-
 “ nected with my own family; and if
 “ you agree to my proposal, you shall
 “ pay the rent in the same manner its
 “ late worthy possessors did, namely, by
 “ giving me as much of your company
 “ as you can spare.—I must have no de-
 “ nial, and so, my dear madam, give
 “ proper notice that you shall not long
 “ want your present apartments, and I
 “ will have my house fitted up for your
 “ reception as soon as possible.” Mrs.
 Forrester testified her satisfaction by the
 politest

politeſt acknowledgments; and returned to her lodgings with her ſpirits lighter than they had been ſince the ſad event which occaſioned her to leave London.

Her ſentiments of gratitude were ſo lively, that ſhe was quite oppreſſed by them; and on her maid's ſpeaking to her, as ſhe entered her dining-room, ſhe ſtrove in vain for utterance, and throwing herſelf into a chair, a flood of tears happily came to her relief; and as the throbbing of her agitated boſom ſubſided, ſhe exclaimed in broken accents, “ noble, angelic woman! ſure thou wert delegated from above, to give us ſome faint idea of the divine goodneſs!—oh! my unfought for, my unexpected friend! by your means, my darling Louiſa, the only comfort I had left upon earth, (till kind providence put it into your benevolent heart to patronize the widow
“ and

“and the orphan,) will receive the advantages of an education, which I durst not hope to bestow upon her!—oh! gracious Creator, increase my gratitude to thee, and the beneficent instrument of thy mercies!”—Her maid, and the little Louisa, stood suffused in tears, and wrapt in astonishment; but both perceiving that her emotions proceeded from joy, not dejection, they waited with patience for her spirits being more composed.

When her mind had, in some degree, regained its usual calmness, she freely unbosomed herself to them; and the next morning, told the person, of whom she rented her lodgings, that she should not be a tenant for more than three or four months; and thought it a duty incumbent on her to give the earliest notice, that no loss or disappointment might happen on her account.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

A REMOVAL.

FEW days now past without Mrs. Forrester's being invited to the Park, where the Miss Egertons and Louisa spent their hours in the most agreeable succession of improvement and relaxation, under various tutors.

Mrs. Egerton was extremely active in getting the dilapidations of Egerton-Abbey repair'd, (for so was this little elegant building called,) and the house neatly fitted up for the reception of her
new

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new friend. It was delightfully situated on the slope of a gently rising hill, surrounded with lofty elms, which had, for a long succession of years, been the safe and undisturbed shelter of a numerous colony of rooks.—No sooner was the house erected, and inhabited, than these domestic birds, who seem to repose a remarkable confidence in the human species, increased to an extraordinary degree; and gave inconceivable pleasure to the truly humane inhabitants of this modern *antique* building. An elegant little garden descended from the house, to a beautiful serpentine river, over which a gothic bridge, in the most romantic taste, led to the Mansion-house, thro' a wilderness of forest-trees and flowering shrubs.

In about two months Mrs. Forrester, and her little family, removed to this
sweet

sweet retirement;—charming in its situation and conveniencies, but rendered doubly charming by the near neighbourhood of the benevolent owner.

Mrs. Egerton told Mrs. Forrester, that as she should so often indulge herself with a walk to the Abbey, she must insist on her gardener's keeping the little place in order, as he always did in Mr. Westwood's time; and whatever improvements Mrs. Forrester was inclined to make, she expected she would have done without consulting her, as it would give her double pleasure to see any alteration or addition made without her previous knowledge:—it would have the charm of unexpected novelty, and appear like a new creation. Every thing she proposed was mentioned with such a delicate ease, and such animated sincerity, that it was

absolutely impossible not to coincide with her.

We now behold these two amiable matrons enjoying every satisfaction that widowed love could know. The poignancy of their grief, alleviated by the lenient hand of time, subsided into tender melancholy, and placid resignation;—and their endeavours to render their beloved children accomplished and happy, by imperceptible degrees restored them to comfort and cheerfulness.

Tho' Mrs. Egerton had always a domestic turn, yet she did not seclude herself from society, but kept up a constant friendly intercourse with all the families of fashion, within the reach of a day's visit. She considered, if she gave herself up entirely to the suggestions of melancholy, it would be an irretrievable misfortune

misfortune to her daughters; for what would all the advantages of education they could receive from their various preceptors avail them, unless they were accustomed to see company of their own rank :—They might be sensible,—they might be virtuous,—they might be mistresses of every valuable and elegant accomplishment,—but if bred up without a personal intimacy with the polite world, they would never be able to appear in it to advantage.

From these considerations, as soon as the first year of her widow-hood was expired, she resumed the custom she had observed during the happy years of Mr. Egerton's life, of keeping a public day every Tuesday, (the day on which she was married) when an elegant entertainment was provided, and whatever company came, were sure of a friendly and agree-

able reception; and as Mrs. Egerton's day was known round the country, it answered several good ends:—all who visited her chose to go on that day, as they were sure to see many of their acquaintance, besides the friends they went to visit. The house was free from company all the rest of the week, and she could spend her time in the way that was most eligible to herself, without interruption; and, by returning her visits in proper order, had her house always elegantly fill'd on her happy day, as she affectionately termed it.

These days of gala were extremely pleasing to Mrs. Forrester, and her vivacity and good sense made her universally esteemed by the friends of Mrs. Egerton. An happy reciprocation of affection and sincere esteem reigned in the hearts of every individual in these two families.

Miss

Miss Forrester was a constant attendant on all the lessons Miss Egertons received; She was introduced and paid for as an additional pupil, and this addition was a mutual advantage to them all:—emulation has always a kind of instinctive power over ingenuous minds, and will make the task be performed with pleasure, which would otherwise have been tedious and disgusting.

Mrs. Forrester, though so well qualified to have given her daughter a genteel education herself, was by this happy incident, delivered from the necessity of appearing in the strict character of a tutorefs, and had only the pleasing task left of impressing the tender, benevolent, and pious sentiments with which her heart abounded, on the ductile mind of her dear Louisa; and to keep down the rising vanity which she sometimes ob-

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served

served, in consequence of the favour shewn her by Mrs. Egerton, and the encomiums she received on her improvements, which were indeed rapid, but superficial. Her lessons were always learnt as soon as given; but she went no further than the surface;—she fluttered round the verge of every elegant accomplishment, but entered into the merits of few.—Vanity, and the thirst of praise, were her ruling passions; and she exerted her abilities only to gratify them.

She was extremely handsome,—her form was symmetry itself,—and her beauty increased with her increasing years and stature. Tho' treated with the utmost tenderness, and precaution taken that nothing should remind her of her inferiority, yet would she at times, (when alone) repine at the narrowness of her circumstances,

circumstances, till she was almost in a state of insanity.

Julia and Matilda Egerton were both lovely girls, and in the eyes of many might have disputed the palm of beauty with Louisa; but happily there was such a difference in their perfections, as precluded all comparison.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

CONSIDERATIONS ON AN
IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

MRS. Egerton was happy to the utmost extent of her hopes, in the tempers and dispositions of her children. Her son spent two months in the year with her, which were his school holidays; she always received the most flattering accounts of his application and improvement from his various tutors, and as constantly found his behaviour at home consistent with those informations.

As

As he advanced in years, his mind dilated with every sentiment that was noble and generous; his ideas were solid and manly, but enlivened with a warmth, that on some subjects favoured of enthusiasm;—whilst his expression was nervous, chaste, and beautifully simple. His dutiful tenderness to his mother, and lively affection to his sisters, could not be exceeded, and have very rarely been equalled. He beheld Louisa's vivacity with a degree of partiality, which her beauty, and the enlivening cheerfulness of her manners, almost forced from every beholder;—but the more permanent acquirements and softened graces of his sisters called forth his esteem and approbation..

Many of Mrs. Egerton's friends might perhaps blame her for letting so lovely, so prepossessing a girl as Louisa, without

34 LOUISA FORRESTER.

fortune or connexions, be the constant and intimate companion of her son, when he came to the Park;—but she was a woman of penetration and had her reasons for what she did;—she thought if he formed a youthful attachment to Louisa, it would be the most certain preservative against his forming a more improper one abroad;—and as she was of a genteel family, and had every advantage of education, if such an attachment should continue, she determined not to sacrifice her son's happiness to pecuniary motives;—and should Louisa prove unworthy of his mature regard, (of which, from her observation on the expanding features of her mind, she had some doubts) she trusted to his good sense, and the affectionate confidence he on all occasions placed in her, to prevent his forming a union, which might do discredit to his understanding, or prove destructive of his

his happiness;—and, these two points secured, she could have no other anxiety on this account. Thus, all pleased and endeavouring to please, the hours seemed to glide imperceptibly away;—so sweetly were they varied, that the approach of evening was only announced by the employments and duties of the day having been performed;—and the little concert, ball, or card-party continued, till the supper bell brought it to a conclusion.

Mrs. Forrester was a very early riser, and in her morning walks began to plan some little improvements; tho' she found her garden so neat, there seemed to be no occasion for any. But unaccustomed, till this period of her life, to rural scenes, she now became romantically fond of them; and her situation had every advantage that taste could desire.

A few furlongs to the left of the bridge, which led to Mrs. Egerton's pleasure ground, was a large clump of firs and other ever-greens, beautifully disposed in such a manner, as to form an avenue to the centre from every direction, without any of the openings meeting each other. In the middle, which was a kind of dell, scooped by the unerring hand of nature, stood a lofty elm;—this tree, Mr. Westwood incircled with a rustic seat, and inscribed it, “sacred to tender musing melancholy;” and here, he, and his dear Amanda, during the heats of summer, used to spend many of their happiest hours. The mid-day sun could not pervade the friendly gloom; and the refreshing breezes whispered thro’ the clustering foliage, in concert with the feathered inhabitants of this friendly shade.

The

The sequestered spot charmed Mrs. Forrester to "a degree of enthusiasm, and she determined to comply with Mrs. Egerton's obliging request, and pursue the dictates of her fancy with all possible dispatch and secrecy. She signified her wish to the gardener (who had orders to do whatever she chose, without mentioning it to any one,) that a quantity of roots and other proper materials might be conveyed to this elm with all convenient speed.

A very few days were elapsed before all was in readiness, and Mrs. Forrester attended with the rising sun, to give directions to her workmen, who were never missed from their other labours; and won by her mildness and liberality, thought no time better employed than the morning hours which they spent in erecting a delightful

lightful grotto round the Elm, which served for its chief support. This fanciful little structure appeared to be entirely composed of roots;—whatever of stone or mortar was used, was carefully concealed;—the roof was covered with slates, but the slates were again covered with the rude ramifications of the beech and hazel. She directed her workmen to prune the roots, which extended from the floor to the ceiling within,—and from the foundation to the top (which was a rotund) without, into all the varieties the most exquisite taste could form. The outside she had covered with every kind of moss she could procure, and planted round with various kinds of ivy, which being nourished by the moisture of the soil, and defended from chilling winds and scorching sun beams by the surrounding thicket, soon spread with
beautiful

beautiful luxuriance over the sequestered dome. The inside she had cut into niches for four chairs and a couch, the supporters and frames of which were the intertwined roots. Cushions were made for the chairs, and a bed for the couch, covers for which, Mrs. Forrester and her maid were indefatigable in working, in a style and manner of her own invention. They were in imitation of roots, intermixed with moss, branches of ivy, and withered leaves, as if newly fallen from the surrounding trees. The ceiling and intervening spaces, were adorned with the most beautiful mosaic work, for which Mrs. Forrester had an ample fund of materials, from a collection of shells, corals, coralines, and sea weeds, which the Captain had made in early life, and which she had preserved as sacred relics of her first, her only love.

During

During her attention to the erecting and compleating this sweet recess, Mrs. Forrester cautiously avoided, in her walks with Mrs. Egerton, or the young ladies, approaching the fir grove;—it was begun early in the spring, and the ensuing autumn, was perfectly decorated within; and the moss and ivy without were in a fine state of vegetation.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

A ROMANTIC INCIDENT.

MASTER Egerton's birth-day was now approaching, and Mrs. Forrester thought that would be a very proper time to introduce her patroness to the grotto. Before the day arrived, she procured a neat tablet, on which she had the following stanzas inscribed in gilt letters.

Ye that doat on pomp and power,
Shun this low-roof'd mossy cell;
Here, to 'scape the fervid hour,
Genius loves with peace to dwell.

Musing

Musing solitude delights,
 Near this placid stream to rove;
 Contemplation calm, invites
 Her vot'ries, to this hallow'd grove.

Welcome here the liberal mind,
 Welcome here the breast that glows;
 By tender sympathy refin'd,
 To sooth each sorrow to repose.

The tablet was made large enough to admit of an elegant framing of moss, shells, spar, and fossils, and fixed against the supporting elm, fronting the door.

Another improvement she had made under a spreading sweet willow, which grew near a hedge-row, in a little vale on the back of her house: this she twined and tied down to some neat green stakes, at the bottom of which were planted woodbines, jessamines, and roses, which clung around and concealed them. Here she had a semicircular seat of turf raised,
 the

the prospect from which extended no farther than to a grove, which bounded a beautiful meadow, thro' the midst of which a meandering brook, fringed with alders, stole, softly murmuring, over the pebbled bottom; which, joined with the tender bleating of lambs, and the mellifluous warblings of the feathered race, made a sweetly-soothing concert. Here, on a plain neat board, she had the following inscription, which was fixed up against the willow.

Pride and pageantry avaunt!

On this simple, turf-built seat,
I enjoy what thousands want,
From the world, a safe retreat.

Distant prospects charm the eye,
Distant hopes may wound the breast;
These sequestered scenes supply
The care-worn heart with balmy rest.

But

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But while on earth we ling'ring stay,
No settled peace can be our lot;
The eve may cloud our brightest day
Alike in palace or in cot.

When the young gentleman's birthday arrived, which was celebrated by a select party, chiefly the young companions of Charles and his sisters, Mrs. Forrester proposed a walk before tea, which was instantly agreed to; and, as if by mere accident, she carelessly strolled towards the fir grove; when, turning to Mrs. Egerton, she said, "shall we, Madam, enjoy half an hour under the sacred elm?" "with all my heart," replied she, "I know not how it has happened, but, I think, I have not sat under the shade of that much-loved tree these twelve months."

They walked cheerfully on, some thro' one avenue, some thro' another, without perceiving

perceiving any alteration, till they arrived at the grotto; which, bursting suddenly on the sight, had the most pleasing effect imaginable.

The whole company stood wrapt in admiration and astonishment. "O! my
 " dear Mrs. Forrester," exclaimed Mrs. Egerton, "you have now surprised and
 " delighted me indeed!—but how is it
 " possible you can have accomplished
 " such a scheme as this without any of us
 " knowing ought of the matter?—or have
 " you gained over all my family to your
 " interest, and am I the only person that
 " enjoys this agreeable novelty in perfec-
 " tion?—I have indeed thought you were
 " grown more retired this summer than
 " usual; but as I wished my friend to
 " spend her time in the way most agree-
 " able to herself, I never mentioned it,
 " lest Mrs. Forrester's known politeness,
 " should

46 LOUISA FORRESTER.

“ should induce her to favour me with
“ her company, when she wished to spend
“ her time in some manner more suited
“ to her disposition.”

The young ladies declared their entire ignorance of the affair, and testified an equal degree of surprise with Mrs. Egerton; and Louisa said she could not, nor would not believe her mama knew any thing about it:—fairy-days were certainly come again, and this was only a grotto, which some Fairy Princess had caused to be erected, out of compliment to Mr. Egerton; and she durst say, as soon as he was gone to Oxford (for he was now seventeen, and was to go thither in a few days) it would all be carried away again.

As they advanced to the door, upon a signal given by Mrs. Forrester, two of
Mrs.

Mrs. Egerton's servants, who played excellently on the german flute, (and were concealed amidst the trees on the back of the dome,) began a soft air which they had learnt for the occasion.—“Fairy music too, as I live!” cried Louisa, “nor would it add much to my surprise, if the lady patroness of this enchanted grove should descend in her ærial chariot, and carry Mr. Egerton into Fairy land. But, indeed, I know not what she could present to his eyes more lovely there than she has prepared for his reception here.” “Nor I, neither,” Miss Forrester, replied Charles, “nor half so lovely, unless she kindly carried the present company along with me.” Louisa thought herself chiefly concerned in this compliment,—she blushed, and suppressed a rising sigh.

They

They now entered the grotto, and the elegant taste that was there displayed left them nothing to wonder at, that had so charmed them without. “Indeed my
 “ dear lively Miss Forrester,” said Mrs. Egerton, “one would be led to imagine,
 “ from what we behold here, that your
 “ mama had had an hundred Fairy Prin-
 “ cesses for her hand-maids and assistants;
 “ for when she could possibly find time for
 “ all this needle-work, besides the other
 “ luxuriance of ornaments, I cannot com-
 “ prehend.” “Only by rising early,
 “ madam,” said Mrs. Forrester, “and
 “ as Louisa was so constantly at the Park,
 “ when I denied myself the pleasure of
 “ your company, I had nothing to inter-
 “ rupt me, and when I was weary of this
 “ amusive employment, I always came to
 “ partake of the happiness my Louisa
 “ was enjoying under your benevolent
 “ patronage; and since, my dear madam,
 “ you

“ you are pleased to approve my little
 “ scheme ; had I experienced as much
 “ fatigue as I did amusement and satisf-
 “ faction in the prosecution of it, I should
 “ have been most amply recompenced.”

She then intreated her highly gratified
 guests to sit down on her mossy couch,
 and she drew a little table out of a nitch
 behind the elm, covered with fruit and
 sweet-meats, which, with a most chearful
 and animated conversation, compleated
 the entertainment of the grotto. It was
 agreed, if they stay'd till they ceased to
 admire, they must stay till they could not
 see ; therefore they would deny themselves
 too long an indulgence now, that they
 might return with the higher zest another
 time.

The polite compliment paid to Mrs.
 Egerton in the concluding stanza of the
 inscription, did not escape her observa-

tion; and was a motive to increase her esteem for Mrs. Forrester, on account of her consistent gratitude, as much as the beauty and propriety of the ornaments, made her admire her taste and ingenuity. They returned to the mansion-house delighted with their excursion, which the young gentlemen and ladies agreed always to mention as the *adventure* of the *enchanted Grove*.

The day was a day of happiness to young and old, and the evening concluded with a ball. The next afternoon the young ladies requested Mrs. Egerton to take another walk to the grotto,—which proposal she would have made herself, but waited to see if the taste of the young people, would not induce them to wish for another inspection of beauties, which could never grow less striking, but
must

must rather give more satisfaction, the more they were examined.

Miss Egerton was so pleased with the effect of the music the preceding day, that she was resolved to have a little concert, and sent a servant before, to place her guitar, and her brother's german flute, (suspended by a ribband) under the tablet. They entered the Grotto, and this manoeuvre gave Louisa a fresh opportunity of alluding to her favourite hypothesis of Fairies and Genii. Charles said, he could entertain no very favourable idea of the ministring Spirits concerned in this affair, as they had evidently stolen his flute; but as he hoped, spirits who delighted in the "concord of sweet sounds," were not capable of muttering any baleful incantation over it, he would accompany his sister whenever she pleased, if she, Miss Forrester, and Julia, would assist with

their voices. The delighted mothers seconded the proposal, and an hour was spent in the most delicious harmony, that instruments, voices, and souls in perfect unison with each other, could possibly produce.

When Mrs. Egerton thought it time to return, Mrs. Forrester proposed taking a circle round the Abbey. Charles thanked her for the mention, and with a look, which Louisa seem'd perfectly to understand, said, it would be long ere he should again have an opportunity of enjoying his favourite walks, and therefore, wished to take his leave of them in the society of those he loved and honoured.

They walked on, charmed with the mild beauties of the evening, and expatiating on the sweet prospects that every where opened to the view, till they imperceptibly

perceptibly came to the turf seat, thro' a little wicket, just behind the willow. This unexpected display of fancy gave the greater pleasure to the whole company, as it was a spot that had never been particularly noticed, and they now found it so highly worthy of their attention. There was something in the still circumscribed scene, that excited sensations more exquisitely pleasing, than the rich and extensive views, which had just before delighted them almost to enthusiasm. Mrs. Egerton dropt a tear of tender melancholy, on reading the concluding lines of the inscription; and taking Mrs. Forrester's hand, "yes, my dear friend," said she, "our bright days were clouded in
 " their meridian, but the allwise and
 " merciful Being, that saw it was good
 " for us to be afflicted, has yet reserved
 " to us comforts innumerable. The
 " heart-dilating effusions of maternal ten-

“ derness, the soul-cheering gratitude of
 “ filial affection, still illumine our de-
 “ clining days.

“ When we behold this lovely group
 “ furrounding us, and see them promising
 “ so fair to be all we wish them, we can-
 “ not but resign ourselves with cheer-
 “ fulness, to the divine will; and acknow-
 “ ledge our present possessions are amply
 “ worth our past sufferings. Had we
 “ never known the blessings we have lost,
 “ we had indeed escaped the severest sor-
 “ rows our hearts were capable of sus-
 “ taining; but then, neither could we
 “ have tasted the blessings which are still
 “ spared to us, but must have lived as un-
 “ connected beings, in a world form’d
 “ for tender amities and social duties.”

Mrs. Forrester accorded with the pi-
 ous sentiments of her friend, and they
 mingled

mingled the gentle drops of soothing sympathy, and placid resignation.—Whilst the two amiable mothers were employed in this manner at one end of the seat, the young gentleman and ladies were wondering that this sweet spot could have been so long unnoticed; when Charles suddenly exclaimed, “ I wonder how I came to forget this willow of late ! about three years ago, it was my favourite tree ; for on that branch that bends over the hedge-row, I caught the young linnet, that Miss Forrester was so fond of ; and I used, when I came from school, to take my first walk to the willow, in hopes of procuring another feathered favourite, that had been an inhabitant of the same tree.” Miss Forrester and his sisters rallied his youthful gallantry, and they remained on the turf seat, till the closing evening summoned them home.

C H A P. VI.

A S U R P R I S E.

FOR a week the time was chiefly spent in visits and excursions, when, with inconceivable regret to every individual of this happy party, they separated; and Mr. Egerton went to pursue his studies at Oxford. His absence for a while seem'd to leave a chasm in every breast; but the accustomed engagements were resum'd, and every hour, as usual, appropriated either to improvement or amusement, left

left little time to think of the distant friend and brother.

About three years elapsed without any particular incident.—Young Egerton was received with additional pleasure every vacation he spent at the Park; and he was as sensible of the improvements time made in Louisa and his sisters, as they could be of the agreeable effects a more unrestrained way of life had on him.

One day Mrs. Forrester was much surprised by a servant in livery, who came to Mrs. Egerton's to enquire for her, and brought her a letter.

It is here necessary to mention, that Captain Forrester had a sister, who, some years before his acquaintance with Amelia, had married a Colonel Hamilton; a gentleman of a good family, and some pa-

ternal estate.— He had a regiment in the Company's service, before his marriage, and was soon after appointed Governor of a Fort in India; to which Mrs. Hamilton accompanied him.

They had no children, but were both of too liberal and generous a disposition, to amass an eastern Fortune;—their benevolent hearts were never at a loss for proper objects to bestow their bounty upon;—they were the friends of the prosperous, and the patrons of the indigent; to many a helpless orphan, did they supply the place of parents, and made the deeply dejected heart of many a widow, to sing for joy.

The Colonel had remained in the east near twenty years:— he had given perfect satisfaction to the company; and himself and his lady, had been loved and honoured

noured by all who knew them, when his health began to decline, and he was advised by his physicians to resign his employment, and return to his native country, as the most probable means to repair, in some measure, the injury his constitution had gradually contracted from the heat of the climate: for as he was advanced beyond the meridian of life, it was feared he would not, even in his temperate, native clime, entirely regain his health, tho' there he would have the best,—nay the only chance for it. So delicate were the Colonel's ideas of honour, and so much had he at heart the interest of the company, and the good government of the Fort, that neither the advice of his physical friends, nor the earnest solicitations of his lady, could prevail with him to quit his station, till all due forms had been attended to, and another gentleman was appointed to succeed

ceed him; when he embarked for England, with very little hopes of living to reach it. But as he advanced towards Europe, the fresh breezes from the sea seemed to restore his health and strength; and he arrived in London, towards the end of October, in good spirits.

Mr. Hamilton, during his residence in India, had heard of the decease of all his relations, save one nephew, the only child of his favorite sister. The character that he had heard of him was, that he was a very brave man, and had the command of a sloop in his Majesty's service. He had received several letters from him, which corroborated this information; but at the same time convinced him, that the element he had chiefly inhabited, had given a pretty strong cast to his manners. Mrs. Hamilton had likewise heard of the death

death of her brother, and that he had left a widow and one daughter.

As soon as this amiable couple were settled in commodious lodgings, and had sent a proper person to Hamilton-Grange, to order repairs and alterations there, and make the house fit for their reception the ensuing spring, they began jointly to make enquiries after the Colonel's nephew, and Mrs. Hamilton's sister and niece; that they might shew them such a degree of favour or assistance, as the nearness of their blood had a claim to: and Mr. Hamilton declared his intention of leaving Captain Rainsford his estate, after his own and Mrs. Hamilton's demise, making a handsome provision out of it for Miss Forrester, as they were the only surviving relations on either side.

They

They soon found that the Captain was on the Jamaica station, from whence he was expected the next summer. Mrs. Hamilton was likewise soon satisfied as to her sister and niece;—she was informed of their retreat from town, and of the benevolent politeness of Mrs. Egerton:—therefore, finding they were in no immediate want of assistance, she told Mr. Hamilton, she would not write to Mrs. Forrester, nor give her any information of her arrival in England, 'till she could invite her to the Grange.

The winter was spent in renewing a few long-interrupted intimacies, and in taking the advice of the faculty on Mr. Hamilton's complaints; but little benefit did he receive from medicine, and he found all the hopes he had of recovering, were from the salutary effects of warm weather, air, and exercise.

Spring.

Spring arrived, they went to the Grange, which they found fitted up beyond their expectations; all nature seem'd to smile on the benevolent pair, and they were welcomed to the seat of Mr. Hamilton's ancestors by every mark of respect and affection, which it was possible to shew. It was now that Mrs. Hamilton wished to see the sister and niece, for whom; tho' unknown, she had conceived a sincere regard.—She therefore dispatched a servant to Grove-Hampton, with a most kind invitation to Mrs. Forrester, and her daughter, to give her their company at Hamilton-Grange, for a month or two, and requested to be informed of the day, that she might send her carriage to convey them thither; which she and Mr. Hamilton entreated might be an early one.

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It is impossible to describe the emotions of Mrs. Forrester on the receipt of this letter:—the sister of her dear, long-lamented, never to be forgotten husband unexpectedly arrived in England,—to have taken so much trouble to find out her retreat,—to have written to her in so truly a sisterly manner,—to make such kind enquiries after her child,—to invite them with such tender warmth to her house,—to be joined in all these kindnesses by the Colonel,—brought rapidly to her memory all the respectful and affectionate things she had heard her husband, in the days of her happiness, speak of them both. Her eyes wildly glanced from the letter to Louisa, then to Mrs. Egerton,—she attempted to speak,—her lips trembled,—the letter dropp'd from her hand,—and she sunk motionless on the sofa.

Mrs.

Mrs. Egerton was equally concerned and surpris'd;—she had no idea of any connexion Mrs. Forrester had out of her own house, that could have caused such an effect as she now beheld;—Louisa screamed and fell on her knees beside her mother:—water and drops were brought, and they both recovered.

Mrs. Egerton took up the letter, and laying it by Mrs. Forrester, tenderly took her hand:—"What is the matter, my
 " amiable friend?—whence can this letter
 " come, that has given you such a
 " shock?—unbosom your recent, as you
 " have done your former sorrows, to one
 " who can pity, if she cannot relieve
 " you."

Mrs. Forrester was by this time composed enough to speak.—"O! my benevolent, my sympathizing friend, I
 " now

“ now call for your congratulations; I did
 “ not think there had been a blessing in
 “ store for me, but what must have ori-
 “ ginated from you:—but read that let-
 “ ter, my dear madam,—read it, if you
 “ please, to Miss Egerton’s and my
 “ Louisa; and it will no longer be a
 “ cause of surprise, that my spirits were
 “ unable to sustain the overwhelming
 “ transports, bursting thus suddenly upon
 “ me.”

Mrs. Egerton read the letter, but was
 several times forced to stop, and dry away
 the tear of tenderness that suffused her
 eyes.—When she had ended,—“ yes, my
 “ dear Mrs. Forrester,” said she, “ I do
 “ indeed congratulate you and your
 “ amiable daughter on the acquisition of
 “ such a friend:—I and my girls must
 “ console ourselves, as well as we can;
 “ and surely we are not so selfish, as to
 “ repine

“repine at an addition to your happiness.

“But we must not entirely lose you;—

“the Abbey must still be your home;

“—and your absence at times will make

“you doubly dear to us when you

“return.”

Louisa's bosom was not free from agitations, but they were of a very different kind to those her mother experienced; vanity, and self-love, were too predominant in her breast, to leave much room for the more refined and delicious sensations, which at this instant throb'd with painful extacy, in the hearts of the two elder ladies!—Nor were the Miss Egertons free from those exquisite sensibilities, that refine pleasure into pain.—They loved Louisa, as the chearful and agreeable companion of their hours of improvement, as well as relaxation; and to be separated from her, seemed like
parting

parting with something necessary to every pursuit they were engaged in;—yet they rejoiced in her opening prospects, and congratulated her with the most affectionate warmth, on the various scenes of happiness that seem'd to await her.

Mrs. Egerton advised Mrs. Forrester to fix an early day for her departure to Hamilton-Grange; but with such evident marks of concern, as plainly evinced, she had the real advantage of her friends much more at heart, than her own satisfaction.

CHAP. VII.

AN INTERVIEW.

MRS. Forrester wrote an answer to Mrs. Hamilton's letter, fraught with the genuine dictates of a grateful and affectionate heart, and fixed that day se'nnight for her departure from Egerton-Abbey, as the shortest space in which she could possibly adjust her affairs for so long an absence from home.

The hurry of their preparation allowed little time for reflexion. Mrs. Forrester's heart

heart was dilated with pleasure, mixed with tender melancholy at the thoughts of seeing the beloved sister of her dear husband; whilst she felt the most sensible regret at the idea of leaving Mrs. Egerton, tho' but for a short time. Louisa's thoughts were occupied in a very different way;—she contemplated with rapture the applause her person and accomplishments would meet with, not only from the relatives, whose favor it was both her duty and her interest to conciliate;—but from a fresh circle of acquaintance, among whom she should appear with all the advantage of novelty.

The appointed day soon arrived;—tender was the parting at Egerton-Park, and earnest were the wishes of all parties to meet again.—Louisa's heart was least concerned;—she anticipated the scenes of variety for which she hoped with such avidity,

avidity, that the present was almost totally absorbed in the future.

They reached Hamilton-Grange the next day to dinner; and truly affecting was the meeting of these unknown friends. When the carriage drove up the avenue, the Colonel was standing at the drawing-room window; he hastened to the chariot, and received Mrs. Forrester into his arms, with the tender eagerness of an affectionate brother. "I welcome you, Madam," said he, "to the Grange, as the dear sister, and worthy friend, whose society, I trust, will give to my Augusta all the additional happiness she can receive in this world:" and, turning politely to Louisa, he took her hand, adding, "pardon me, young lady;—the expression of your countenance convinces me, that you too will be necessary to our
"hap-

“happiness.”—Then turning to Mrs. Forrester, as he led her into the house, he said, “shall I, madam, lead you to my wife? (she is in her dressing-room) or shall I send for her down?—she would not pardon me should I withhold from her a moment the pleasure she so anxiously expects.”—“I will attend you, Sir,” replied she, “come, my Louisa, you are to find an aunt, I a sister, in this happy mansion;—already I have found a brother, you an uncle.”—He led them up stairs, and opening the door, said, “here, my love, I bring you a sister and a niece; but you must not engross them all to yourself, for they must be mine as well as your’s.

Mrs. Hamilton came trembling towards them;—Mrs. Forrester rushed into her arms, exclaiming, “Oh! my sister! —the beloved sister of my dear Mr. Forrester!”—

“Forrester?”—Her voice was stopped and her head reclined on Mrs. Hamilton’s bosom:—The Colonel took both their hands, and led them to a sofa; “there, “poor tender-hearted creatures,” said he, “sigh yourselves to rest;”—and, wiping a tear from his eye, he turned to Louisa, and taking her hand, said, “come, Madam, old as I am, I cannot “let youth and beauty pass unnoticed, “and pay all my attention to these “good Matrons:—Come, my dear, see “if you cannot awake them from this “trance of sensibility.”—He led her to them, and, taking Mrs. Hamilton’s hand, put Louisa’s into it, saying, “come, my “dear, I have indulged you sufficiently, “it is now time for you to take some “notice of this fair bud of opening “beauty;—and you, my dear sister, “must give way to these delicate sensa- “tions no longer;—you’ll melt even the
 Vol. I. E “hard

“hard heart of a soldier, if I suffer you
 “to continue thus.”

Mrs. Hamilton rose, and looking Louisa in the face, pressed her to her bosom;—then, hastily drawing back, gazed on her with eagerness, and sinking again on the sofa by Mrs. Forrester,—
 “Oh sister! oh Mr. Hamilton! excuse
 “this more than womanly weakness!—
 “if I could get a tear to my assistance all
 “would be well:—But this sweet young
 “creature so strongly brings to my mind
 “my dear brother,—his every feature,
 “(only softened by the most delicate
 “traits of female beauty,) that I must allow
 “a moment to the luxury of grief.”
 She pressed Mrs. Forrester’s hand,—she
 leaned her cheek to her’s,—and they mingled their sensations in a copious shower of tears;—while Louisa, taking a hand of each, pressed them to her lips, and bathed

bathed them with the pearly dew of filial affection; and the Colonel walked hastily to the window, to hide the manly drops, that chased each other down his venerable cheeks.

These agitations of mind soon gave place to a gentle languor, and serenity again smil'd in every face.—The polite apology went round, and each was happy to find, that all had been alike affected. They were summoned to dinner, and the presence of the servants obliged them to assume an air of gaiety, that entirely dispelled the sensations which had so lately engaged all their faculties.

After dinner Mr. Hamilton led Louisa to Mrs. Hamilton's harpsichord, "I am fond of music," said he, "and my wife plays old lessons very agreeably, in my ear at least; but let me hear some-

76 LOUISA FORRESTER.

“thing new from your finger, my fair
 “niece; which, I trust, will equally de-
 “light us all.”—Louisa play’d,—the
 countenances of all express’d applause.—
 “Join your voice with the instrument,
 “my dear,” said Mrs. Forrester, “you
 “know I love to hear you; and I think
 “what pleases me will please your good
 “uncle and aunt.” Louisa was too du-
 tiful a daughter to be twice reminded.
 She sung

How transcendent is the pleasure,
 Which congenial Souls must know;
 When each heart, in equal measure,
 Beats to bliss, or sinks to woe!

When with kindred feelings glowing
 Tho’ by various modes express’d;
 Smiles unbid, or tears fast flowing
 Shew alike the tender breast.

Louisa’s voice was soft and expressive,
 —her pronunciation clear and agreeable,
 —and

—and she sung these words to a sweetly plaintive air, that conveyed an idea of the sentiment.

Mr. Hamilton stood behind her chair, with the muscles of his face convulsed:—so ardently did he strive to hide the fine feelings, which did honor to his heart.

—The two ladies shed tears of transport.

—When she had closed the mellifluous strain, Mr. Hamilton took her hand, and led her to a seat by her mother.—“No

“more, my sweet Enchantress,” said he,

“I will not henceforth ask you to sing or

“play, for these soft lydian measures

“quite unman me. Cannot you play an

“Indian war-whoop, my little angel?

“and then you would see all the old

“blood in my body lighten in my eyes!

“—but I can bear no more of this ten-

“der key, which unlocks all the frailties

“of my Nature.”

78 LOUISA FORRESTER.

Never were relatives more endeared to each other from similarity of sentiment and disposition, than Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Forrester; and Louisa's youth and sprightliness gave life and novelty to every conversation.

CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

A TETE-A-TETE WITH A WAITING
MAID.

IT cannot be supposed Louisa's beauty and various attractions were overlooked by the youthful part of their acquaintance;—many a young lady trembled at the superiority of her charms;—and many a young gentleman sighed in secret:—but her extreme vivacity made them fearful of disclosing their sentiments, afraid of becoming the objects of her wit and ridicule.

There

There was one young gentleman, however, who visited in the family, whose heart had hitherto been a stranger to every tender or delicate idea; who was such a perfect *Country 'Squire*, in the strongest acceptation of the word, that his visits would not have been received at the Grange, had it not been for the merit of the other Branches of his family:—On their account, he was treated with respect, which he placed all to his own merit.

Mr. Frankland had only appeared at Mr. Hamilton's, two or three times, with his mother and sisters, as a formal visitor; neither seeming to be much pleased himself, nor at all suited by his conversation to please any of the party he met there:—But soon after Louisa's arrival, he became very frequent in his neighbourly visits; and, in a short time, scarce a day passed but he made his appearance at
some

some hour or other, tho' often at such times, as there was not the smallest probability of seeing any of the family.—He always made the first enquiry after Miss Forrester; and, by this mode of proceeding, every servant in the house was apprized of his motives before they were known to the parties concerned.—His name being so often left, was a matter of wonder to all the family; and the uncommon hours at which he called, often contributed to their mirth.

It happened one day, when the Colonel and family had an invitation to dine with Lady Dowager Belmour, which they had accepted, that Louisa was seized with an head-ach, shivering, and other symptoms of a bad cold, which she acknowledged she had caught by walking too late in the garden, the evening before.—As her complaint was
nothing

nothing alarming, Mrs. Forrester did not think it necessary to put off her intended visit, but left her to the care of her faithful maid; recommending a warm room, chicken-broth, and cheerfulness, as all she thought necessary to restore her to health.

The chariot no sooner drove from the door than Louisa rang the bell, and her Kitty coming to know her commands;—
 “why, sit down, Kitty,” said she, “and
 “let us have a bit of sociable chat. Here
 “am I left alone, without spirits to
 “play, or inclination to read;—come,
 “tell me something that will divert
 “me.”

Kitty, who was never at a loss for entertaining anecdotes, when she had liberty of speech, (tho’ she neither wanted good sense, good nature, nor a proper respect

pect and deference for her ladies,) was so pleased with this kind invitation, that she did not stand to have it repeated. Perhaps there was a particular reason for her being highly pleased with this permission, at this juncture. — The truth was, she had long been observing the conduct of Mr. Frankland, and had no doubt of his motives; but had not before met with a favourable opportunity of mentioning her suggestions to Miss Forrester, nor the foundation she had for them; and this happy minute was not to be lost. — Therefore, with a low courtesy she sat down on the next chair but one to Louisa, and with a look and tone of voice, which expressed much respect, and much haste, to enter upon a theme which had engrossed her attention for some weeks, — she began: “ You are very kind and condescending, “ Ma’am, and I am very conscious I “ have not abilities to say any thing that “ can

“ can amuse or entertain you;—but I
 “ think I know a young gentleman, that
 “ would give a good deal to be in my
 “ place, and to have free liberty of
 “ speech given him, as I have;—and yet
 “ if he had, I much question whether he
 “ could make use of it to any purpose!”

“ What Gentleman do you mean,
 “ Kitty?” cried Louisa, smiling, “ you
 “ are going to amuse me with a subject
 “ I never dreamed of.”—“ May be so,
 “ Miss, but I am convinced the poor
 “ gentleman has often dreamed of it, if
 “ his passion will permit him to sleep:—
 “ But indeed, Miss, he has called here to
 “ enquire after you, so early in a morn-
 “ ing, and so late in an evening, that he
 “ could find little time to sleep be-
 “ tween.”

“ Well

“ Well, Kitty, and pray who is this
 “ enamoured swain, that you paint in
 “ such glowing colours, as first in Cupid’s
 “ train?—I really cannot imagine who
 “ you mean:—Why, there’s Mr. Noel
 “ blushes whenever he speaks to me, and
 “ sighs when he takes his leave;—but
 “ what of that?—and then Sir Robert
 “ Middleton, I think, sometimes looks
 “ at me, as if his soul would take flight
 “ thro’ his eyes:—But, what of that,
 “ Kitty?—’tis only the way of these male
 “ creatures, to make us poor vain girls,
 “ think something which they never
 “ meant;—for if they meant any thing,
 “ what prevents them from making my
 “ uncle, aunt, or mother acquainted
 “ with their sentiments?”

“ Why, to be sure, Ma’am, you know
 “ best what construction to put upon
 “ their looks and their silence;—perhaps
 “ they

“ they dare not speak for fear of being
 “ rejected;—that must be a sad mortifi-
 “ cation to a fine gentleman, if he was
 “ really in love.—But, however, I think,
 “ whenever Mr. Frankland has an op-
 “ portunity, if he can find courage to
 “ speak, it will be to yourself;—he will
 “ never think of the ceremony of asking
 “ permission of your mamma, or any body
 “ else.”

“ Mr. Frankland, Kitty!” exclaimed
 Louisa, eagerly;—“ why you don’t think
 “ that unpolished rustic can love?—My
 “ stars! how I should laugh, bad as my
 “ head aches, was the creature to make
 “ his appearance, and attempt to tell me
 “ he could!—But what are your reasons
 “ for this conjecture, Kitty?—come, I
 “ must know all now you have begun.

“ Why, Ma’am, all I know is,—that
 “ of late he calls very often, and always
 “ asks

“ asks after you first, and sometimes for-
 “ gets to enquire after, or leave com-
 “ pliments to any body else. He has
 “ call’d by seven o’clock in a morning,
 “ with his gun, and a troop of spaniels
 “ and pointers at his heels, and asked if
 “ you were an early riser.—He has come
 “ galloping to the gates about eleven,
 “ with his horse all on a foam, and has
 “ asked if you loved hunting?—I reply’d,
 “ the exercise was too violent for a
 “ young lady of your delicacy.—He
 “ swore it was the finest and the health-
 “ fulest exercise in the world; and he was
 “ sure, if Miss Forrester would go once,
 “ she’d like it better than cards, or danc-
 “ ing, or sauntering up one lane and
 “ down another, to take an airing, as
 “ they call it.—But is it not strange
 “ ma’am, that so often as he has call’d,
 “ it should always happen that you were
 “ out

“out, or the time of day such, as made
 “it impossible he should be announced?”

“Why really, Kitty, it is rather odd;
 “—but I have no reason to be dissatisfied,
 “for I could not have promised myself
 “any great entertainment from such an
 “admirer. By what I have seen of
 “him, he is too insipid and unpolished
 “a being, even to divert one;—and he
 “appears to me as vain, as if he
 “possessed all the accomplishments in
 “the universe:—Well, good Kitty,
 “don’t you say a word about it, for Mr.
 “Hamilton will rally me to death, if he
 “should get any notion of it:—But
 “really, Kitty, your chat has amused me,
 “and I find myself so much better, that
 “I am inclined to exceed my mamma’s
 “regimen, and venture to eat a bit of
 “chicken too; and so let me have it im-
 “mediately,

“mediately, and I’ll have nobody attend but you.”

A boiled chicken was serv’d up,—Kitty attended, and the conversation continued.—Louisa made a good meal, and seem’d to have forgot her indisposition. When she had dined, she said, “Well, now Kitty, give me a glass of warm wine and water, and go to dinner; but come to me again as soon as possible, for I shall relapse into my lowness again, if I am long alone.”

Louisa sat meditating on the foregoing information; and, despicable as the subject of it was, could not help being pleased at the idea of a declared lover.—The novelty, and the womanly consequence it would give her, to have it in her power to refuse a man of fortune and family,—made her little heart flutter with vanity and exultation.

C H A P. IX.

A SPECIMEN OF COURTSHIP.

KITTY had not left the parlour above a quarter of an hour, when she came running, almost breathless to the door; and as she opened it,—she cry'd, “O Miss! here is Mr. Frankland galloping up the avenue;—what shall I say to him?—will you please to be at home?—you will scarcely find such another opportunity of knowing whether my suspicions are without foundation.”—“Well then, Kitty, if he
“ asks

“ asks for me, and, when he hears all the
 “ rest of the family are out, is desirous
 “ of seeing me, admit him ; but don’t
 “ forget to tell him I have a bad cold,
 “ or else he’ll wonder at my being at
 “ home alone, and not dressed.—
 “ And, Kitty, if he stays long, I
 “ shall ring for you ; and if I do, I
 “ shall tell you to go to your work,
 “ and to set my frame up to the window,
 “ and do a bit of the ground of my screen:
 “ —It will be so odd if he stays long, for
 “ no-body to be in the room.—But, I
 “ dare say he will not come in.”

Kitty withdrew, and in a few minutes
 return’d, and announced Mr. Frankland,
 who was at the door before she could
 well pronounce his name.—He enter’d,
 and Kitty retir’d.—He bow’d very low ;
 “ Your servant, Miss Forrester, I am
 “ sorry to hear you are indisposed,—but
 “ extremely

“extremely glad to find you alone;”—
and striding across the room, viewed
himself, with strong marks of approba-
tion, in the glass.

Louisa courtesy'd, and reply'd, “you
“are very polite, Sir, but I am poorly
“qualified to entertain Mr. Hamilton’s
“company in his absence.” “O, my
“sweet little angel, nobody better qua-
“lified to entertain company of any
“kind, than you; and sure a young
“lady of your age, is fitter company for
“a young man of mine, than any of your
“old grave gentlemen, or ladies either.—
“Why, did not your maid tell you I
“enquired for you?” — “I thought it
“might be a mistake, Sir, as it is quite
“unprecedented for a gentleman to en-
“quire for me.” — “Is it so?—all the
“better, — then, I hope, my proposals
“will

“ will be the more agreeable for coming
“ first.”

“ Proposals, Sir, I don’t understand
“ you !” — “ Don’t you, indeed, my
“ little charmer ? but I’ll soon make you
“ understand me ; for I have no opinion
“ of your formal declarations to the old
“ people, and dangling month after
“ month, year after year, and then being
“ just where one began.”

“ Really, Mr. Frankland, this is talk-
“ ing in an unknown tongue.” “ Indeed,
“ my dear Miss, and are you so great a
“ stranger to the language of love, as not
“ to understand me ? — why then I must
“ speak plain. I never thought of mar-
“ riage, Miss, till I saw you, and have
“ been ever since thinking of nothing
“ else ; and now, Miss, tell the plain
“ truth, have you any objection to being
“ wife

“ wife to a man of five thousand a year?
 “ —Come, consider, Miss, I don’t think
 “ the offer to be despised;—I have no-
 “ body’s leave to ask, nor do I ask any
 “ fortune;—your Mamma, and your
 “ Uncle may do just as they please,—
 “ curse me if I care;—I have enough,
 “ and so what say you, eh?”—“ Why,
 “ really, Sir, I was never more astonished
 “ in my life,—do you call this love?—it
 “ is by no means correspondent with my
 “ ideas. I always thought, love made
 “ his votaries timid, delicate and fearful
 “ of offending; but I see you want to try
 “ whether I am such an ignoramus as to
 “ be caught by the first overture; that
 “ you may treat me with the contempt I
 “ should deserve, was I to accord to your
 “ proposals, as you call them!”—She
 rung the bell,—Kitty entered, and Louisa
 said, “Go to your work, Kitty, you
 “ know, I want to have that piece fi-
 “ nished,

“nished, and you must stick close to it
 “till my cold is well.”—“What, and so,
 “Miss, you call your maid in to break
 “off the Conversation;—but it won’t do,
 “for I’m sure you can make no reason-
 “able objections to my offer;—and so,
 “Miss, speak your mind, as freely as I
 “have done, and say it’s a match, and
 “I’m sure Mr. Hamilton, nor your
 “Mother will not say nay to it.—I don’t
 “care if fifty waiting maids were present,
 “’tis all one to me;”—“and to me too,
 “Sir,” reply’d Louisa, (colouring with
 mortification, at the little ceremony she
 was treated with, and the coarse mention
 of asking no fortune with her,) “I neither
 “wish to hear, nor intend to speak any
 “thing but what the whole world may be
 “witness to;—but be so obliging to an-
 “swer me one question, Sir;—are these
 “the serious dictates of your heart, or do
 “you mean to insult me?”

“Insult

“ Insult you, Miss, no curse me ! what
 “ have I said, that you can think looks
 “ like insult ?—have I not offered you
 “ marriage, without making any bargain,
 “ what can be fairer ?—but I suppose
 “ you are like my wise sisters, and have
 “ got such a heap of these devilish fine
 “ sentiments in your head, that an ho-
 “ nest plain fellow don’t know how to
 “ talk to you ; but you’ll come off them
 “ after a bit, I’ll warrant you.”—“ When
 “ I do, Sir, I’ll let you know, and in
 “ the mean time, your absence is the
 “ only favour I have to request.”—
 “ What, Miss, do you turn me out of
 “ doors ?—burn me if I don’t hate myself
 “ for ever having troubled my head about
 “ you ;—you are just like my foolish
 “ sister Bess, when my friend, Dick
 “ Shortwood made her just such an
 “ offer ;—and the proud minx has only
 “ five thousand pounds, and what will
 “ that

“that do for her?—Why I can buy
 “your uncle’s estate any day; and do
 “you think I’ll dangle after you, or any
 “of your confounded fantastical sex?
 “No, curse me if I do!”—and he
 stamp’d about the room, with all the
 rage of vulgar ignorance and disap-
 pointed pride.

Louisa trembled with indignation,—
 her utterance was choak’d,—she rung
 the bell furiously,—and Kitty, starting
 from the window, exclaimed, “How
 “dare you, Sir, insult my young lady
 “thus, in her own house?”—“Her
 “own house, indeed!—I never knew
 “she had’ one before, and I believe it
 “will be long enough, before she has the
 “offer of another:—but keep your dis-
 “tance, Mrs. Abigail, or my foot shall
 “teach you due respect to your betters.”
 —At that instant a footman entered,

Louisa with much dignity, said, "help
 "this gentleman to his horse, John,"
 —"I can call for my horse myself when
 "I want him, Miss; but I shan't go yet."
 "—But you shall, Sir," reply'd Louisa,
 "and so, John, shew the gentleman out
 "of the house."

John held the door open and bow'd;
 —Frankland walk'd about the room;—
 Louisa rose,—"Well, Sir, I leave you to
 "the care of Mr. Hamilton's Servants,
 "—I hope they know how to treat a
 "wretch who dares behave with such
 "insolence in their master's house."—
 She was going, but just as she got to the
 door, he stepp'd before her and prevented
 her retreat.—"No, no, Miss Fanfa-
 "ronade, you go not yet,—you shall
 "hear a little more of what I have to
 "say to you,—I'll humble your proud
 "heart before I leave you."—"Unhand
 "me,

“me, wretch!—John, call for help, and
 “deliver me from this brutal rudeness.”
 Kitty rung the bell, and a couple more
 servants appearing, after some struggles,
 and many dreadful imprecations, they
 forc’d the indignant ’Squire out of the
 house, which he swore never more to
 enter.

Louisa’s spirits were so exhausted by
 the variety of emotions she had experienced during this short conversation,
 that she no sooner found herself delivered
 from the insolent rudeness of her rustic
 lover, than she sunk into a chair, and
 burst into a violent flood of tears.—Kitty,
 who was herself much irritated, and
 much discomposed, had, however, presence of mind enough to use every method to sooth and raise the spirits of Louisa.—Water and drops were the first cordial she administered; and then, fall-

ing on her knees, she besought her pardon for having been the cause, tho' the innocent one, of her being subjected to such brutal treatment,—“but who, my
 “ dear young lady, could have had the
 “ most distant thought, that your beauty,
 “ and the delicate propriety of your be-
 “ haviour, would not have awed the
 “ most untutor'd savage into respect and
 “ timidity?”—Louisa began now to grow more composed:—“Rise, Kitty,” said she, “I am not at all displeased with
 “ you,—it was my own fault;—I as well
 “ as you entertained too great an opinion
 “ of my own consequence:—but I
 “ think, I am effectually cured of this
 “ kind of vanity.—I shall take care how
 “ I listen to a declaration of love again.
 “ —But we must now consider how to
 “ make the best of this mortifying ad-
 “ venture.—Had Mr. and Mrs. Ha-
 “ milton, and my Mother, been witness
 “ to

“to every circumstance, I am not con-
 “scious of any thing in my conduct, that
 “could have incurred their displeasure.
 “—It might be wrong to think of ad-
 “mitting him, but he did not give me
 “time to shew my imprudence, but in-
 “truded himself abruptly, before he
 “knew whether I was at home or not.”

“O dear, Ma’am,” cried Kitty, “how
 “can you think of any body blaming
 “you? it was impossible for you to pre-
 “vent his rudeness; and I am sure you
 “shewed great prudence and presence of
 “mind in ordering him to be turned out
 “of the house as you did; for it is im-
 “possible to know with what indignity
 “the brute might have treated you, if
 “you had not shewn a proper spirit.—
 “I hope you’ll tell Mr. Hamilton every
 “word of his insolent abusive language,

“and let the whole blame fall where it
 “ought.”—“Why that’s what I wish to
 “do, Kitty, but I dare not; for should
 “Mr. Hamilton know the whole of his
 “insolence, he would think himself
 “bound in honor to resent it in such a
 “manner, as would make the affair quite
 “public, and consequently add to my
 “mortification, and give extreme unea-
 “siness to my mother and aunt.—There-
 “fore, Kitty, will you tell the servants,
 “they will oblige me much by saying
 “nothing about it, unless Mr. Hamilton
 “should ask them;—and then only to
 “say, that they believed I was tired of
 “his company, for I ordered them to
 “help him to his horse;—and I’ll repre-
 “sent the affair to my mamma, in such
 “a manner, as to make it appear a mat-
 “ter not worth taking any notice of : and
 “so the family will be rid of a disagree-
 “able

"able visitor, and all will be well."—
This was no sooner concluded on than
Kitty withdrew to execute her commis-
sion, which she found no difficulty in
doing, to her entire satisfaction. The
servants laughed at the incident amongst
themselves,—put what comments they
pleased on it,—and were fully satisfied to
let it rest where it was.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

NAVAL TENDERNESS.

THE Family came home, found Louisa better, and all were happy. The next morning at breakfast Louisa finding herself in good spirits began to give the history of the preceding day, fearing, if she delay'd it longer, something might transpire from another quarter; and she rightly judged it would much injure her cause to have the story told by any body but herself.

Without

Without any particular variation from truth, she, by heightening some parts of the conversation, and suppressing others, plac'd his ignorance and rusticity, and her own disappointed vanity, in such a ludicrous light, as gave high entertainment to her friends; who found much to laugh at, but nothing to censure, in her conduct, nor to wonder at in his.

Mr. Hamilton thought himself much obliged to Mr. Frankland for not imposing the disagreeable task of a refusal upon him, or Mrs. Forrester, at either of whom he might have been seriously disgusted; for had he applied to either of them, they must have given him a decisive answer; as he was a person by no means proper to have been referr'd to Louisa as sole arbitress of his fate: lest he should have been induced to have treated her in a stile ill suited to the dignity

nity of her sentiments, or the delicacy of her manners.—But as they had settled the matter between themselves, it was all very well; and he had nothing to regret from the loss of an acquaintance he had never wished to cultivate.

Louisa's heart was now at rest, and she was impatient for an opportunity of laughing the affair over with her confidential Kitty, which had occasioned them both so much perturbation the preceding day.

Time seem'd to glide imperceptibly away, in this happy mansion of harmony and peace; every day was mark'd by some act of benevolence; and not a visitor entered the friendly walls but departed pleased and improved.

Six weeks had elapsed since Mrs. Forrester and Louisa left Egerton-Abbey; they

they had received many friendly letters from Mrs. Egerton and the young ladies; but so truly affectionate and congenial were these new found relations, that Mrs. Forrester had not resolution to mention leaving them.

The time now approached that the Jamaica Fleet was expected; Mr. Hamilton had made proper enquiries, and found Portsmouth was the destin'd harbour.

When Captain Rainsford came on shore, he found a letter sent to the Commissioner of the Dock-yard, to be delivered to him on his arrival, which contained all necessary particulars relative to his Uncle's return to England, and an invitation to Hamilton-Grange, as soon as he could possibly adjust his affairs to his own satisfaction.—The perusal of this letter

letter raised such a gust of passion in the heart of this brave young man, as all the terrific scenes of battle, and the more tremendous raging of the warring elements could never produce.—He had not seen the face of a relation since he was sixteen, he was now six and twenty. He just remembered his Uncle coming to take leave of his Mother, before he went to India; his Father, a brave Officer, was then at Sea.—He recollected the fondness his Uncle then expressed for him,—he recollected the firm, manly, but affectionate leave he took of his Mother,—he remembered his prayer over him, as he tenderly pressed him to his bosom;—
 —“ God bless and preserve thee, my
 “ dear Harry!—if thy noble Father lives
 “ to see thee grow up to manhood, may
 “ his cheeks glow with paternal rapture,
 “ when he shall hear thy name pro-
 “ nounced with honour!—and never
 “ may

“ may one action of thine suffuse thy
 “ mother’s face with the burning blush
 “ of shame!”—His father he never saw
 more;—he died with glory in the ser-
 vice of his Country, and, with his last
 breath, recommended his son to the fa-
 vour and protection of Admiral D——.
 “ You have been, Sir, (said he,) a fa-
 “ ther and a friend to me.—Oh! wou’d
 “ it be too presuming in me, to entreat
 “ your patronage for my boy?—under
 “ your auspices he could not deviate
 “ from the paths of true honour;—you
 “ have been my leading star, and I am
 “ now entering the haven of rest.—My
 “ wife!—my boy!—I commit you to a
 “ Providence that will never leave the
 “ humble confiding soul destitute of
 “ comfort!”—His speech began to fal-
 ter.—The humane Admiral pressed his
 icy hand,—“ be comforted, my dear
 “ Rainsford,—every thing in my power
 “ to

TO LOUISA FORRESTER.

“ to serve your son, and comfort your af-
“ flicted widow, I engage myself to do ;
“ you have serv’d your Country,—you
“ have fought bravely,—and you die,
“ furrounded with the joyful acclama-
“ tions of a victory, you have help’d to
“ gain;—dearly purchased, since your
“ life is a part of the price !”—He ceas’d,
for he saw his friend heard him no
longer.

The Admiral religiously kept his word;—he wrote to Mrs. Rainsford, in the most tender and soothing manner; and at his return to England, visited, and consoled her, with the affection of a brother;—gave directions for young Rainsford’s education, and at the age of sixteen took him into his own ship as a midshipman.

Mrs. Rainsford’s grief for the loss of her husband had brought on a nervous disorder,

disorder, which baffled all the power of medicine, and all her own efforts to remove it; but she lingered till the time her dear Harry was to go on board, when her taking leave of him gave such a shock to her almost exhausted constitution, that in a fortnight after he set sail, she closed her sorrows in the cold arms of death.

Admiral D—— was as good as his word,—he treated young Rainsford in every respect like a son; and the amiable youth, who inherited his father's courage, and noble openness of temper, made every return that gratitude could suggest, or generosity could receive: and thro' his interest he obtained the command of a sloop when he was about four and twenty.

C H A P. XI.

AN AFFECTIONATE RECEPTION.

ON reading Colonel Hamilton's affectionate letter, Rainsford was in as much haste to adjust his affairs, that he might attend the welcome summons, as ever he was to prepare for an engagement when he saw an enemy's ship approaching;—and the moment they were properly arranged, he set out post for the happy spot, that held all the kindred blood, and tender amities, the world afforded him,—in a disposition of mind
much

much easier to be conceived than described.—He arrived at the Grange just as the family and some friendly visitors were set down to tea.—The Colonel was sitting near a window, and saw a chaise drive exceeding fast up to the gates; when a gentleman in the naval uniform alighted, and seem'd to fly, rather than walk to the door. The Colonel rose precipitately,—“Excuse me, ladies, this
 “can be no other than Captain Rainsford.”—Mr. Hamilton opened the door as the Captain ascended the steps; and both stopped at the same instant,—
 “Your name is Rainsford,” said the Colonel, “I cannot be deceived, the
 “lineaments of your mother are strongly
 “depicted in your manly countenance.
 “—Welcome to my house,—welcome
 “to my heart!”—and he turned away his face to hide the affectionate tear that burst unbidden from his eye;—while
 Rainsford,

Rainsford, with an instinctive Emotion, which he could not suppress, seized his hand, and pressing it first to his lips, then to his heart, exclaimed, “ Oh! my
 “ ever honoured Uncle!—the tender
 “ brother of my long lost parent!—the
 “ friend of mankind,—and the favourite
 “ of Heaven!—am I at last so happy as
 “ to embrace you?”

The Colonel grasp'd his hand, with a pressure expressive of sentiments beyond the power of language, and led him to an adjoining parlour,—“ Sit down,
 “ my dear Harry, and let us compose
 “ ourselves a little ;—we have an agree-
 “ able party of friends in the drawing
 “ room, to whom I must introduce you;
 “ but as they are ladies, we must not let
 “ them see these traces of tenderness in
 “ our countenances, least they call our
 “ courage in question; but I think we
 “ could

“ could both face a cannon in our
 “ Country’s service, without half the tre-
 “ mours this meeting has cost us;—
 “ could not we, boy?”—“ Ay, Sir,”
 cry’d Rainsford, his eyes darting fire at
 the mention of serving his Country;—
 “ now you have made me fit to attend
 “ you any where; for never since I parted
 “ from my mother to attend my father’s
 “ friend, and my noble patron, did my
 “ heart ever experience any sensations,
 “ but what honour, gratitude, and the
 “ love of my Country inspir’d, till I re-
 “ ceived your letter, and I have been a
 “ milk-sop, a meer fresh-water boy ever
 “ since.”

As he articulated these words, Mrs.
 Hamilton entered the room, and ap-
 proaching the Colonel with a sprightly
 benignity, took his hand, saying, “ is it
 “ as we hoped? may I receive this gen-
 “ tleman

116 LOUISA FORRESTER.

“ a man as the relative we so cordially
“ wished to see?”—“ Yes, my love, this
“ is my nephew;—this is the son of my
“ once dear Caroline;—take him to
“ your heart, my Augusta;—I have no
“ skill in physiognomy, if ever he forfeits
“ his interest there.—This is your Aunt,
“ Harry, she is well prepared to love
“ you, for she loves every thing that is
“ brave and noble, therefore you have
“ an undoubted claim to her favour.”

Rainsford took her hand with an affectionate diffidence, and press'd it to his lips,—“ that is too distant a compliment,
“ Captain, (said she,) Mr. Hamilton
“ commands me to take you to my
“ heart, which I do with pleasure, for his
“ sake; and I dare say, I shall continue
“ you there for your own.” She then
clasp'd him to her bosom, and saluted
him

him with maternal tenderness; the sweet dew of sensibility glistening in her eyes.—

“But come, my love, our friends, I know, are impatient to see this new acquisition to our domestic circle;”—so saying, she led him to the company, and introduced him as the beloved nephew, whose arrival she had so anxiously expected.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

TRUE BENEVOLENCE.

CAPTAIN Rainsford was amply qualified to support the character his Uncle had given of him, and he soon became the favourite of all that knew him. With the brave, open, unsuspecting, and unaffected manners of the sailor, he united the ease and politeness of the gentleman;—and with the fortitude of a stoic, he possessed all the tender sensibilities of the heart. His knowledge of mankind was the result of what he had
seen,

seen, not what he had read;—and to please and be pleased was his chief study.

At Hamilton-Grange a new scene of action opened to his view,—a mode of life he had hitherto had no opportunity of forming an idea of. He had seen every degree of virtue and humanity, that could be call'd forth in a naval situation, uniformly practiced by his noble friend Admiral D——; and every thing that had the sanction of that brave man's practice and approbation, could not but be adopted by all who had the happiness of knowing him. But the amiable owners of Hamilton-Grange made active benevolence the study of their lives, and the leading principle of all their actions. When the weather was fine, the mornings were constantly spent in excursions, which gave air, exercise, and the most exalted satisfaction to themselves;

selves; and administered consolation and relief to all that were indigent, sick, or afflicted, within their reach.—They did not confine their beneficence to the poor cottagers on their own estate; but, with an unbounded liberality, they sought out the sons and daughters of adversity, with as much care as the dissipated and unfeeling endeavour to avoid them.

Mrs. Hamilton was an excellent Œconomist, which much increased her power of doing good; and to those poor people, who were industrious and prudent, her charity knew no bounds. To those that were not, she administered relief with a more sparing hand; and added every stimulus to incite them to care and diligence. She purchased large quantities of wool and flax, and where-ever she found poor people without employment, she set the women and children to work,

work, as Mr. Hamilton did the men. For this purpose he plann'd some alterations in the pleasure grounds.—A large piece of springy land, near the house, his taste led him to have converted into an extensive water; but instead of depriving the surrounding farmers of their labourers, that his eye might be delighted with the hasty completion of his scheme, he determined that nobody should put a hand to it but what wanted employment. On the north side he had a large plantation of forest trees and evergreens, and an elegant temple erected facing the water, consecrated to benevolence and the social duties.—His labourers came every night to receive their wages; and not a man in his vicinity ever wanted a day's work, nor a person was depriv'd of a servant, when they had employment for him.

Mrs. Hamilton ordered all the poor women and children, whom she employed, to bring their work home every Friday morning;—that day she kept free from all other engagements, and had a plentiful dinner provided for them to be ready at twelve o'clock, that it might not intrude on the family arrangement. She examined their work herself,—gave something above their wages to those that had excell'd,—usually paid them with her own hand,—encouraged them to be diligent,—and loaded them home with fresh materials for their industry,—and the surplus that remained of their dinner; and this day she used to call her holiday. Of the yarn she used to have cloth of various kinds manufactured, and given to the necessitous to clothe their families.

Thus, by her prudent management, she employed, fed, and clothed all her
indigent

indigent neighbours at a small expence. One condition she always made when she clothed a family, namely, that they must appear clean and decent every Sunday at church; otherwise they must never expect to receive any future favours from her hand. She likewise established several little schools, where the children of the poor were taught to read, sew, and knit; and enabled to clothe themselves with the materials she bestowed on them. Thus the benevolent dispositions of this amiable couple made a happy change in the appearance of the country for many miles round.

One morning when the ladies were going on one of these humane excursions, the Colonel was particularly engaged with his workmen, and told Captain Rainsford, he must escort them alone. It was a delightful morning; they

arrived at a small village about three miles from the Grange, where many of Mrs. Hamilton's pensioners lived. When they stepped out of the carriage, Mrs. Hamilton said, "we have a good deal of business here, Captain,—shall you like to amuse yourself at the Inn?—perhaps it will not be so agreeable for you to accompany us."—"How long shall you be engaged, Madam?"—"I suppose about an hour and an half."—"Very well, Madam, I'll be sure to be here at the time." So ordering his horse to be taken care of, he set out to survey the surrounding scenes, and to meditate on the benign dispositions of his worthy relations.

C H A P.

CHAP. XIII.

AN AFFECTING SCENE.

HE had walk'd about a mile thro' a varied scene of fields and woodlands, decked with the gayest tints of nature, when he stopped at a little spring, that rose under a tuft of alders, and ran gently murmuring thro' the adjacent meadows;—a lofty wood, on a gently rising hill bounded the prospect, from whence his ear was delighted with a sweet concert of its feathered inhabitants. As he stood, wrapped in contemplation

on the beauties of Nature, and the beneficence of its adorable author, he observed a female figure come from among the trees, and move towards the place where he stood, with a small pitcher in her hand. As she approached he could perceive an air of deep dejection overspread her countenance;—her form was genteel, and her attire denoted she had seen better days;—she walk'd with trembling timidity,—her bosom laboured with the sigh of heart-rending anguish,—and the tears chased each other down her palid cheeks.

Thus absorb'd in sorrow, she had approach'd within a few paces of the spring, before she saw the Captain, who stood leaning against a tree in fixed attention. At sight of him, she stopp'd, blush'd, and attempted to recede. He flew to her with an instinctive

instinctive haste,—and with a diffidence
 and confusion, nearly equal to her own,
 took her hand, and with a voice, in-
 terrupted by the sensations of his heart,
 he said, “pardon then, unknown
 “daughter of affliction, the intrusion of
 “a stranger;—the beauty of the sur-
 “rounding scenes tempted me hither,—
 “and whatever be the cause of your
 “grief,—if it is in my power to alleviate
 “it, I shall bless the hour that I entered
 “these sequestered shades.”

She withdrew her hand with great
 emotion,—she attempted to speak, but
 the words died inarticulate on her trem-
 bling lips. Rainsford took out his
 purse, and hesitating, said, “let me not
 “offend you, fair unknown;—will this
 “trifle be of any service?—or will you
 “instruct me in what way I can assist
 “you?—I see you are unhappy, and

“pardon me if I say I cannot leave you
 “till I know whether it is in my power,
 “as well as in my will, to give you
 “comfort.”

A fresh shower of tears bedew'd her cheeks, and with much difficulty she said, “misfortunes like mine, ought to
 “subdue every particle of pride;—but
 “alas! they have taught me to fear
 “every profession of friendship, and to
 “doubt every offer of assistance.—Par-
 “don me, noble stranger! there is
 “something in your countenance which
 “tells me I might unbosom my sorrows
 “to you with safety;—but I cannot
 “speak:—I came for a little water to
 “this spring, to prolong the life of an
 “afflicted parent,—I will take some,
 “and if you can bear to enter the
 “gloomy abode of hopeless misery, I
 “will lead you to it.”

She

She fill'd her pitcher, and with trembling steps hasted towards the wood. Rainsford followed her, and on the declivity of the hill found a poor cottage, which she entered with precipitation, and setting down the water, said to a venerable emaciated man, (who sat toasting a bit of bread over a few dying embers) "oh! my dear Sir, how does
 " my poor mother? I have been long,
 " but I have been interrupted;—and I
 " think there is an angel coming in at
 " the door!—he wants to relieve us,—
 " but I could not speak to him;—I will
 " take my mother some water, and you,
 " my dear father, will know in what
 " manner to treat him;—but I think he
 " is a noble minded creature." She hastened to the poor room above, and just as she was out of sight, Rainsford entered the humble dwelling.

Figure

Figure to yourself, tender reader, a man about five and forty, of an elegant appearance and expressive countenance, pale with want and watching, sitting over a dying fire, in a poor clay-built cottage, with no furniture but a couple of chairs, an humble stool, and a broken table;—a little girl about five years old, pale and thin, was playing with a kitten beside him, on whom he sometimes looked with the tear of paternal tenderness starting from his eye.

As Captain Rainsford entered, he rose, and advanced to meet him.—“My daughter tells me, Sir, you seek the house of mourning; you do not find her here, deck’d in the pomp of horror, but in the simple guise of unknown distress, and unfriended poverty.”—Rainsford look’d round with anguish,—his voice was suppress’d by the

the feelings of his heart;—he took the gentleman's hand,—he press'd it;—at last in broken accents, he said, “ I ask
 “ your pardon for this intrusion, Sir, let
 “ me not give you pain,—I see you were
 “ born to an happier lot :—I will have
 “ no painful explanations :—I enjoy
 “ more of the good things of this world
 “ than I deserve, therefore you have a
 “ right to draw upon me for what you
 “ want.—Tell me, my good Sir, how I
 “ can serve you, and you will confer a
 “ greater favor on me than his Majesty,
 “ (God bless him!) would do, were he
 “ to make me an Admiral.”—“ Be
 “ seated, Sir,” said the amiable Mr. Goodwin, (for that was his name) “ my
 “ daughter rightly said she had met
 “ with an angel; but I have no right to
 “ your assistance till you know whether
 “ I deserve it or not. Be pleased to
 “ hear my short narrative, and then you
 “ will judge of my distress.” CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

A SIMPLE NARRATIVE, AND
AN ACCIDENT.

' MY Grandfather possessed an estate
 ' of about five hundred pounds
 ' a year. He had only two sons, of
 ' which my father was the youngest;—
 ' my father had likewise two sons, of
 ' which I was the eldest;—my uncle
 ' never married, and I was his pre-
 ' sumptive heir. He also express'd
 ' such a partiality for me, that had I
 ' been the youngest, I should not have
 ' wondered

‘wondered at a fine being passed in my
‘favour.’

‘I was bred up to the Church by his
‘desire;—my brother to the study of
‘physic, by his own choice. I married
‘a most amiable woman, with the en-
‘tire approbation of my uncle. I set-
‘tled in a curacy about three miles from
‘hence, where I lived in a comfortable
‘genteel manner,—supplying what was
‘deficient in my salary, from my
‘wife’s fortune;—for my father had
‘little to leave us after our educations
‘were finished;—and of that little my
‘brother took care to secure the greatest
‘part.’

‘My uncle’s favour towards me ne-
‘ver seem’d to abate. He often en-
‘couraged me to live in a more elegant
‘style; and told me, I need not fear
‘but

' but his estate would come to me be-
 ' fore my wife's fortune was exhausted.
 ' But uninfluenced by his advice we
 ' continued our domestic œconomy;—
 ' and as we had only two children, and
 ' those girls,—thought it our duty to
 ' give them an education suitable to the
 ' fortune they might one day expect.'

' My poor little Anna there, indeed,
 ' was too young to need any thing but
 ' the tender attention of her mother;—
 ' our elder darling we put to a good
 ' school, and engaged the best masters
 ' to perfect her in every female accom-
 ' plishment. Suffice it to say, Sir, she
 ' answered our most sanguine expect-
 ' tations. Our resources began to grow
 ' short, when my uncle, who had been
 ' for some time in a decline, was con-
 ' fined to his bed.'

‘ I fled on the wings of affection to
 ‘ pay my duty to him, and to administer
 ‘ all the consolation in my power to
 ‘ him, in his last moments. I found
 ‘ my brother attending him as his phy-
 ‘ sician; I thought he did not treat me
 ‘ with his accustomed partiality,—but
 ‘ I attributed it to his weakness. He
 ‘ shewed no tokens of displeasure; and
 ‘ I had no suspicion that any one could
 ‘ have prejudic’d me in his opinion, as
 ‘ I was not conscious of having deserved
 ‘ it.’

‘ I thought my brother seem’d to as-
 ‘ sume a good deal of authority in the
 ‘ family; but that I took little notice
 ‘ of, knowing his temper to be natu-
 ‘ rally haughty and overbearing:—but
 ‘ judge of my surprize, Sir, when my
 ‘ uncle was dead, and I, (condescend-
 ‘ ingly as I thought) began to consult
 ‘ him.

‘ him about the funeral; when he told
 ‘ me, I might make myself perfectly
 ‘ easy on that head, for he should do
 ‘ just as he thought proper, without my
 ‘ advice, or that of any body else.’

‘ I was thunderstruck!—“ You know
 “ brother, I am my uncle’s heir, and if
 “ he has made a will in your favour, in
 “ regard to the personalty, I shall be
 “ willing to go shares in the funeral ex-
 “ pences.” ‘ He told me he knew what
 ‘ he was doing; that the house was now
 ‘ his, and my presence was no longer
 ‘ necessary.—This rous’d me from my
 ‘ stupor, and I demanded an imme-
 ‘ diate scrutiny into the papers of the
 ‘ deceased; when, to my utter dismay,
 ‘ my brother produced a fine, by
 ‘ which the entail of the Estate had
 ‘ been cut off; and a will, in which
 ‘ every thing was left to my brother,
 ‘ save

‘ save a legacy of fifty pounds to my
‘ eldest daughter.’

‘ This was a severe stroke, after the
‘ expectations I had been encouraged
‘ to cherish. My wife, the most pru-
‘ dent and amiable of her sex, sooth’d
‘ me to patience; and we determined
‘ to retrench our expences, and live ac-
‘ cording to our small income.’

‘ My eldest girl had just left school,
‘ she was agreeable in her person, mild
‘ and gentle in her manners, and her
‘ bosom was the seat of virtue and ten-
‘ derness;—her disappointment was se-
‘ vere,—but by her mother’s arguments
‘ and example, she soon grew resign’d
‘ and cheerful. She studied how to
‘ make her education in some degree
‘ useful;—she work’d several elegant
‘ pieces of embroidery, which we got a
‘ friend

' friend in London to dispose of. I
 ' sold my horse, and discharged my
 ' man, and cultivated my garden with
 ' my own hands;—our mutual affection
 ' induced us to assume the appearance
 ' of content and serenity, and these en-
 ' deavours had such an happy effect,
 ' that in a short time we all became in
 ' reality, what at first we only seemed.'

' In this situation I was so far from
 ' envying my brother, that I really pi-
 ' tied him. I would not have ex-
 ' changed my present confined circum-
 ' stances, to have enjoy'd my uncle's
 ' estate, on the terms I knew my bro-
 ' ther had acquired it;—for I was cer-
 ' tain he must have used some very base
 ' artifice, tho' I knew not of what kind;
 ' and a consciousness of my own inte-
 ' grity, and that I had not incurr'd my
 ' uncle's displeasure by any thing repre-
 ' hensible

‘ henfible in my conduct, made me
 ‘ look upon it as the ordination of that
 ‘ good and gracious being, who can
 ‘ turn our deepest adversity to our
 ‘ greatest and most durable advantage.

‘ One thing however gave me con-
 ‘ siderable uneasiness;—I owed a few
 ‘ small sums, which tho’ they were
 ‘ mere trifles when my uncle’s estate
 ‘ lay in prospect before me, now ap-
 ‘ peared to be matters of real con-
 ‘ sequence. I called in my bills, and
 ‘ found the whole amount to be about
 ‘ forty pounds.— I apologized for not
 ‘ having it in my power to discharge
 ‘ them immediately, but promised to
 ‘ liquidate them as soon as possible.
 ‘ But as my uncle’s demise and my dis-
 ‘ appointment became publicly known,
 ‘ I found my creditors began to grow
 ‘ impatient; and tho’ they were not
 ‘ imper-

‘impertinent or clamorous, I felt the
‘mortification most sensibly.’

‘I knew it was hard upon traders to
‘give long credit, if they dealt ho-
‘nestly; they must pay for their goods
‘regularly, or they could not carry on
‘trade; and how must that be done, if
‘a number of their customers were like
‘me.—These thoughts, at times, made
‘me very melancholy; but I concealed
‘them from my dear Eliza, as there was
‘nothing in her power to lessen our fa-
‘mily expences, but what she uniformly
‘practised.’

‘One day, when I was ruminating
‘on this unpleasant subject, a neigh-
‘bouring gentleman, (if a man who
‘has no merit, but a large estate, may
‘be call’d so) with whom I had a
‘slight acquaintance, rode up to the
‘door,

‘ door, and enquired for me. I went
 ‘ out, and the first thing that struck
 ‘ me was one of his hands covered with
 ‘ blood.—I exclaimed with terror, “good
 ‘ heavens, Mr. Frankland, what is the
 ‘ matter?” “A mere trifle, Sir, (said he,)
 ‘ don’t be alarm’d,—my horse, started
 ‘ suddenly and threw me; my hand is
 ‘ cut,—and I took the liberty to call on
 ‘ you to get it bound up, as you know
 ‘ I have some miles home.” ‘ He
 ‘ alighted and went into the house, my
 ‘ wife and daughter were alarmed, as I
 ‘ had been, at the sight of the blood;
 ‘ but he told them he was not much
 ‘ hurt;—they proceeded with trembling
 ‘ haste to wash the wound, and apply a
 ‘ stiptick.’

‘ My poor Maria was so affected, she
 ‘ could scarce assist her mother; and
 ‘ when the little office of humanity was
 ‘ finished,

' finished, she was forc'd to go into the
 ' air to keep herself from fainting.—
 ' Mr. Frankland made many acknow-
 ' ledgements for the trouble he had
 ' given us,—complimented my wife on
 ' her light hand, and skill in surgery;
 ' and rallied my daughter on her ex-
 ' treme timidity:—drank a glass of
 ' wine,—admired the situation and
 ' neatness of my house,—and invited
 ' me cordially to dine with him the
 ' next day.'

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

FASHIONABLE FRIENDSHIP.

‘I Was in no disposition of mind to
 ‘enlarge my acquaintance, but my
 ‘dear Eliza urged me.—She said, Mr.
 ‘Frankland seemed to be very goodna-
 ‘tured, tho’ not over polished,—that
 ‘he had a good living or two in
 ‘his gift,—and she thought I should
 ‘not slight an incident that might pos-
 ‘sibly turn out to my advantage.’

‘Her advice had always due weight
 ‘with me; I went, and was treated
 ‘with the utmost kindness and atten-
 ‘tion.

'tion. He passed many encomiums
 'on my wife and daughter, and sup-
 'posed I must be one of the happiest
 'men breathing.—I said I was so, in
 'my family connexions; but every bo-
 'dy had their cares as well as their
 'comforts. When I took my leave,
 'he desired to see me often; adding, he
 'wondered he had not found out so
 'agreeable a neighbour sooner.'

' About a week after he came one af-
 'ternoon, and said, if he should not be
 'deemed an intruder, he was come to
 'take a dish of tea with us, and to
 'thank his fair operators for the cure of
 'his hand.'

' After tea he commended the neat-
 'ness of my garden, which he survey'd
 'from the window. I told him I was
 'my own gardener, therefore he must
 'not

' not expect to find it very perfect.—
 ' He then said, he must have a walk in
 ' it.—We walk'd, and he found some-
 ' thing to praise in every part of it.—
 " But how comes it, my good neigh-
 " bour, that you subject yourself to such
 " laborious employment, who, I un-
 " derstand, have a pretty estate in ex-
 " pectancy? and, no doubt, but you
 " will soon get some church preferment;
 " I promise you my interest if any thing
 " should fall in my way."

' I thank'd him, and told him I had
 ' no expectations;—that my Uncle was
 ' dead, and my brother in possession of
 ' the estate:—I wished I had not been
 ' encouraged to expect it, my present
 ' situation would then have been much
 ' happier than it now was.—" I under-
 " stand you, my good friend, a little in
 " debt, I suppose?"—I looked discon-
 Vol. I. H ' cerned,

‘certed, and a sigh escaped me. “Come,”
 ‘said he, “don’t be troubled at small
 ‘matters,—how much is it? will a few
 ‘hundreds set you clear?—I hate to
 ‘see a worthy man embarrassed, when
 ‘it is in my power to help him;—tell
 ‘me freely how much would answer
 ‘your purpose.”

‘Thus kindly pressed, I told him the
 ‘whole amount of my debts; he laughed
 ‘at me for being dispirited about such a
 ‘trifle,—took out his pocket book, and
 ‘put a couple of fifty pound notes into
 ‘my hand, telling me, I should pay him
 ‘again when I had got a good living.
 ‘—I said that might never be, and I
 ‘should not deserve his kindness, if I
 ‘accepted a loan I might not be able
 ‘to repay,—At length, I accepted one
 ‘of the bills, and gave him my note of
 ‘hand for it, payable on demand; which
 ‘he

‘ he did not refuse to take, tho’ he said
 ‘ he should never desire me to repay it,
 ‘ till I had no further occasion for it.

‘ We returned to the parlour, where,
 ‘ in a conversational way, he mentioned
 ‘ a living that he had about twenty miles
 ‘ off, that, he believed, was a good three
 ‘ hundred a year, and the incumbent
 ‘ very old and infirm; “ that, my friend,
 “ I think, would suit you very well, till
 “ something better drops.” I thank’d
 ‘ him for his kind intencion, with the
 ‘ tear of gratitude rising in my eyes;—
 ‘ my wife was silent,—but her expressive
 ‘ countenance glowed with acknow-
 ‘ ledgements beyond the power of lan-
 ‘ guage. He left us happy beyond con-
 ‘ ception;—we poured out our thanks to
 ‘ Heaven for having raised us up such a
 ‘ friend;—and congratulated each other.

‘on having the load removed from our
 ‘minds, which had for some time em-
 ‘bittered all our enjoyments.’

‘Mr. Frankland frequently called on
 ‘us, often made us presents of game,
 ‘and his friendship seem’d daily to in-
 ‘crease. It happened one fine evening,
 ‘my wife and I were inclined to walk
 ‘out, when my girl was intent upon fi-
 ‘nishing a piece of work, which she had
 ‘almost compleated, and declined ac-
 ‘companying us. We had not been
 ‘gone long before Mr. Frankland came;
 ‘he went straight into the parlour with
 ‘his accustomed freedom, and finding
 ‘we were out, he said he was glad of it,
 ‘—it was an opportunity he had long
 ‘been seeking; “I want to speak to you,
 ‘“my dear, upon a subject that we can
 ‘“talk over best alone.”’

‘My

“ My poor Maria was struck speech-
 “ less at his words and manner.—He
 “ proceeded, “ you are too fine a girl to
 “ sit spoiling your eyes over that nasty
 “ frame; you shall come and live with
 “ me, and be as happy as the day is
 “ long.” “ I don’t know what you
 “ mean, Sir,” said the poor girl, blush-
 “ ing and trembling, “ I am quite happy
 “ with my dear parents, and my work is
 “ only an amusement.”

“ May be so, my pretty innocent; but,
 “ I think, I could find you better
 “ amusement, and make you happier
 “ than these grave old people can; and
 “ it may be a means of making them
 “ happy too: for if you’ll consent with
 “ a good grace, I’ll be generous to
 “ them for your sake. Come, my sweet
 “ little blusher, give me a kiss, in token

“of your consent, and I’ll spare your
 “words.” — He threw his rude arms
 ‘round her neck, and forcibly kissed
 ‘her cheek and lips, and attempted such
 ‘freedoms, as effectually banished that
 ‘diffidence and respect, with which she
 ‘had hitherto regarded him.’

‘She repulsed him with spirit, and
 ‘bursting from him, opened the door.
 ‘He caught her by the arm, and pull-
 ‘ing her with violence, said, “come,
 “none of your coy airs, Miss Pert; I
 “charge you not to say a word of my
 “condescending to take notice of you
 “to your father: — I shall speak to him
 “next, and if he does not behave with
 “more gratitude, and common sense,
 “than you have done, (and he swore a
 “great oath) you shall all repent it.” —
 ‘Then, with a terrifying countenance,
 ‘he

“he hastened to the door, mounted his horse, and was instantly out of sight.”

“My poor girl, as soon as he was gone, ran into the kitchen, sunk down in a chair, and fainted. The maid, surprised at her appearance, and Frankland’s abrupt departure, hastened to give her proper assistance, and she soon recovered. “O, Miss! (said the tender-hearted creature) what has that gentleman said to fright you thus?”—“I scarce know, Peggy, what he has said, or whether I have not been in a dream;—sure if my father has not obligations to him, he could not dare to insult and threaten me so!”—“O, Miss! I never saw any body look so furious in my life, as he did when he got on horseback.” “She then told the maid the particulars of his inso-

'lent behaviour; and they both agreed
'not to mention his having called in our
'absence, knowing what unhappiness it
'would involve us in.'

'Maria endeavoured to compose her-
'self, and resumed her needle; but
'could not, at our return, conceal the
'hurry of her spirits; she therefore com-
'plained of a violent head-ach, to ac-
'count for the alteration we observed.'

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

A MAN OF THE WORLD.

“Several days elapsed, and we saw
 “nothing of our worthy benefactor,
 “as in the overflowings of our gratitude
 “we used to call him;—at length, to
 “my utter astonishment, I received a
 “letter from my rector, noticing me to
 “quit the curacy and house in a quarter
 “of a year, or sooner, if possible; as he
 “intended to reside there himself.”

“This was an incident as unfortunate
 “as it was unexpected;—it was a short
 “time

' time to look out for another situation;—
 ' and if I should be without employ-
 ' ment, I knew not how to support my
 ' family.—I was likewise in a good
 ' neighbourhood, and near a cheap
 ' market; which made my continuance
 ' very desirable in my present circum-
 ' stances. I much wished to consult
 ' Mr. Frankland,—for tho' I had no
 ' great opinion of his judgement, I had
 ' of his good-nature;—and as I knew
 ' he was acquainted with the rector, I
 ' did not doubt, but he could prevail
 ' with him to let me continue there till
 ' I could be accommodated elsewhere.'

' I talk'd from day to day of going to
 ' wait on him;—but such a load hung
 ' upon my spirits, that I could not
 ' force myself out. I began to think he
 ' was ill, as he had never been so long
 ' without calling, since the accident that
 ' first

‘ first brought him to my house; and I
 ‘ had just form’d a resolution of paying
 ‘ my respects to him on the morrow,
 ‘ when I saw him ride up to the door.’

‘ My heart bounded with joy, and I
 ‘ hastened to receive him.—He call’d me
 ‘ his worthy friend, and spoke with the
 ‘ greatest cordiality; but did not seem
 ‘ quite in such spirits as I had usually
 ‘ seen him. I soon told him the unea-
 ‘ siness I experienced at the prospect of
 ‘ leaving my cure, and solicited his in-
 ‘ terest with my rector for a little longer
 ‘ time.—He told me he would do any
 ‘ thing in his power to serve me, but
 ‘ knew that would answer no purpose at
 ‘ all, —as the rector was the most ob-
 ‘ stinate, disobliging fellow in the king-
 ‘ dom;—“but never mind this paltry
 ‘ curacy, I’ll take care you shall never
 ‘ feel the loss of it, unless it’s your own
 ‘ fault;’

“ fault;—the old man at Southcote can-
 “ not live for ever.—Come, will you
 “ walk into the garden, and let us con-
 “ sider what is to be done.”

“ We went out, and walk’d for some
 “ time without speaking a word;—I
 “ thought he looked disconcerted and
 “ irresolute.—At length, he said, “ I
 “ am a fool, Goodwin, to think you
 “ would hesitate a moment about ac-
 “ ceding to a proposal I am going to
 “ make you. I know you parsons must
 “ live by preaching, and a fair outside
 “ is necessary to make the cheat go
 “ down;—but when something better
 “ offers, why should not you embrace
 “ it?”—“ I was thunderstruck!—He
 “ went on, “ you have a pretty daugh-
 “ ter,—I never saw a girl in my life I
 “ lik’d so well. Now if you’ll yield her
 “ up civilly, without any of your cant
 “ or

“or grimace, I’ll settle one hundred a
 “year on her, and another on you; and,
 “I think, that’s a bargain you won’t
 “mend.”

“I was so overpowered with asto-
 “nishment and indignation, that I
 “thought my bosom would have burst.—
 “At length I exclaimed, “insolent, de-
 “praved monster!—dar’st thou insult
 “my misfortunes by such an infamous
 “proposal?—Sell the honor and inno-
 “nocence of my child?—no, not for
 “all the wealth the world could offer!
 “May conscious rectitude and an un-
 “blemished name, be the portion of
 “me and mine; and I can look down
 “with pity on the richest profligate upon
 “earth.”

“Proud Priest! (reply’d he,) this
 “language ill becomes you. Consider the
 “favours

“favours I have conferred on you ! but
 “I shall find means to humble you. If
 “your spirit is too high to make the
 “returns I wish, I will instantly be paid
 “the money I lent you.”—“You shall,
 “Sir ;—I’ll sell my furniture tomorrow ;
 “I would sooner die than lie under an
 “obligation to such a despicable wretch.
 “Begone this instant ! I am yet master
 “here, and I will bear it no longer.”—
 ‘I believe he was frightened at the vehe-
 ‘mence of my look and action ; for he
 ‘walked hastily through the house, and
 ‘disappeared.’

‘I enquired for my wife and daugh-
 ‘ter, and was told they were up stairs.
 ‘I was impatient to see them, tho’ I
 ‘dreaded to wound their tender bosoms
 ‘with a recital of my sorrows. When
 ‘I came up, I found them weeping in a
 ‘room

'room that look'd into the garden.
 'My wife, I found, when we were gone
 'out, went to know the cause of Ma-
 'ria's staying out of the parlour, when
 'she could not but know Mr. Frankland
 'was there. While the dear, dutiful,
 'timid girl was endeavouring to form
 'an excuse, they observed the commo-
 'tion I was in, when the wretch was in-
 'sulting me with his abandoned offers
 'of friendship. My Eliza could not
 'guess at the meaning; but Maria
 'thought she could too well explain it.
 'She burst into tears, and told the un-
 'worthy treatment she had received
 'from him, and his threats, which had
 'induced her to conceal it. A general
 'explanation ensued, and we passed the
 'evening in a state little short of dis-
 'traction.'

'The

‘The next morning I sent to re-
 ‘quest Mr. Fairbrook, a wealthy farm-
 ‘er in my parish, who had always ex-
 ‘pressed a great regard for me, to fa-
 ‘vour me with his company for half an
 ‘hour;—he came, and I, with a little
 ‘apology, told him of Frankland’s infur-
 ‘portable cruelty. He expressed his
 ‘disinterested friendship in the most
 ‘animated terms, —wondered at my pa-
 ‘tience that I let the villain go off the
 ‘ground alive, — and declared had he
 ‘been present he would have risked his
 ‘life in the cause of virtue and injured
 ‘friendship.—He did not value Frank-
 ‘land of a farthing,—he wished he was
 ‘now present that he might give him a
 ‘good drubbing,—he should not grudge
 ‘to pay a hundred pounds for it.’

‘When

‘ When he had run himself out of
 ‘ breath in this friendly strain, I told him
 ‘ I sent for him to ask his advice about
 ‘ the readiest way to raise fifty pounds,
 ‘ which I owed Frankland.—I said, I
 ‘ could raise plate and linen to a greater
 ‘ amount, if I could find a friend that
 ‘ would lay down the money.’

‘ His countenance fell.—“ Why, I
 “ am very sorry, Mr. Goodwin, it hap-
 “ pens at such an unfortunate time,—
 “ you have not a friend that would
 “ more rejoice to serve you,—but I
 “ have not ten guineas in the house,
 “ and a number of workmen to pay, as
 “ you know I always have;—and tho’
 “ I would do any thing in the world to
 “ serve so worthy a gentleman,—yet,
 “ you know, Sir, for me to embroil my-
 “ self with a powerful neighbour to do
 “ you

"you no good, would be mere folly.—
 "I have twenty men, I dare say, stand-
 "ing still for want of orders, and, so
 "Sir, I wish you a good morning; and
 "I hope you will do me the justice to
 "believe, that nobody would do more
 "to serve you."—'He then hastened
 'away.'

CHAP.

C H A P. XVII.

FRATERNAL KINDNESS.

‘ **H**E was the only person I had any
 ‘ idea of having assistance from,
 ‘ and his behaviour struck me into such
 ‘ a state of torpidity, that I stood re-
 ‘ gardless of all around me; when a
 ‘ farmer, of an inferior class, entered
 ‘ the door, to ask my wife for a me-
 ‘ dicine she used to give away for the
 ‘ ague.—He was a civil, orderly man,
 ‘ —I had no expectations from him;
 ‘ but my pride was so abated, that I
 ‘ told.

'told my distrefs.—“ Why, Sir, (said
 “ the kind hearted creature) ’tis hard,
 “ that a gentleman, as you are, should
 “ be disturbed for such a small sum;—
 “ I have twenty pounds by me; and, I
 “ think I can borrow the other thirty
 “ from two of my neighbours, and not
 “ mention your name, Sir. I would
 “ not lose you from the parish for double
 “ the sum, poor as I am; and what, tho’
 “ ’Squire Frankland is my landlord,
 “ what of that? I pay him my rent at
 “ quarter day, and he may find a better
 “ tenant, if he can.”

“ No, my good friend, I will not em-
 “ broil you with your landlord;”—‘ as
 “ I spoke, the honest man said, “ Go in,
 “ Sir, and lock the door; here is a
 “ bailiff coming this way, and ’tis best
 “ to take care.”—‘ I did so, and an ill-
 “ looking fellow coming to the door,
 “ my

‘ my wife asked his business from the
 ‘ window.—He wanted to see me, and
 ‘ could not deliver his business to any
 ‘ body else;—he stay’d till he was tired,
 ‘ and then departed.

‘ The next day was Sunday, I went
 ‘ to Church, and officiated as usual:—I
 ‘ made no secret of my situation;—those
 ‘ that could have assisted me, were cool
 ‘ and in haste;—those that could not,
 ‘ wished it in their power. I wrote
 ‘ Frankland word, he might make a
 ‘ seizure, and sell goods to pay his de-
 ‘ mand.—He sent me word, he should
 ‘ not give himself that trouble; but
 ‘ should send me to jail, for the debt I
 ‘ owed him; and if I offered to take any
 ‘ thing off the premises till he was paid,
 ‘ he should indict me for a robbery.”

‘ Tho’ I knew he could not legally
 ‘ proceed in this manner, mov’d by the
 ‘ tears

‘ tears and entreaties of my wife and
 ‘ daughter, I kept the door constantly
 ‘ locked, and durst not stir out, day or
 ‘ night. Indeed we frequently saw
 ‘ some of his emissaries about the house,
 ‘ which obliged us to use those precau-
 ‘ tions. We wept,—we consulted what
 ‘ measures to pursue,—but could fix on
 ‘ nothing, but to write to my brother,
 ‘ whom I had neither seen, nor heard
 ‘ from, since my uncle’s death. I wrote
 ‘ to him in the most affectionate and
 ‘ conciliating manner I was able,—laid
 ‘ my case before him without reserve,—
 ‘ and requested him to lend me fifty
 ‘ guineas, that I might emerge from my
 ‘ present uncomfortable confinement;
 ‘ and I would, if he desired it, dispose
 ‘ of some of my furniture, and return
 ‘ him the money in a week’s time.”

‘ I waited with anxiety for his answer
 ‘ till the next Sunday, when I again did
 ‘ duty in my Church; tho’ I own, my
 ‘ spirits were scarce able to support me.
 ‘ In the evening I received a letter from
 ‘ my brother, I opened it with the ut-
 ‘ most haste and emotion;—but, gra-
 ‘ cious Heaven! what were my feelings!
 ‘ how were my miseries redoubled, when
 ‘ I found him treat me with the most
 ‘ insulting cruelty that ever disgraced
 ‘ the human heart.’

‘ He told me, he was not respon-
 ‘ sible for my air-built schemes;—I
 ‘ should have been secure of my un-
 ‘ cle’s estate before I had brought up
 ‘ my daughter as presumptive heiress to
 ‘ it. According to the turn things had
 ‘ taken, he did not see what prospect
 ‘ I could have for her, but that which
 ‘ now presented itself, or something of

‘ a similar kind; and as he thought
 ‘ I could not expect a more lucrative
 ‘ offer, I could not do better than ask
 ‘ pardon for my late imprudence, and
 ‘ see if the *good* gentleman would abide
 ‘ by his liberal proposal; — desired I
 ‘ would give him no further trouble, for
 ‘ he should receive no letters from me
 ‘ in future.—I stamp’d the detested let-
 ‘ ter to atoms;—my poor Eliza fainted,
 ‘ — Maria wept,—and I raved.’

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

A RETREAT.

“WHEN my wife recovered, and
“the first tumults of grief and
“rage were a little abated, my dear Eliza
“exclaimed, in broken accents, “Oh!
“my love! if we could but find some
“poor cottage,—some turf-built hut,
“that would just screen us from the
“inclemency of the weather, and secure
“you from the horrors of confinement,
“and my child from the attempts of
“this vile man, we might yet be happy.

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I

“—My

“ —My girl and I would work to gain a
 “ maintenance, and, however scanty, we
 “ would never repine, while we could eat
 “ the bread of honest independence.”—
 “ O for such a retreat! (said I,) bread,
 “ and honest independence, would now
 “ be the height of my wishes.”

‘ Our servant, who had been reco-
 ‘ vering her mistress, and was now weep-
 ‘ ing in the room, said, “ I have been
 “ sadly grieved, Sir, ever since ‘Squire
 “ Frankland behaved in that ungentle-
 “ man like manner to you; but as I
 “ could do nothing to serve you and my
 “ dear good mistress, I said nothing;
 “ but if, indeed, Sir, a poor cottage
 “ would be of any service to you in
 “ these misfortunes, I could conduct
 “ you to one, where nobody could find
 “ you out. It is a very poor place, to
 “ be

“be sure, Sir; but yet, I think, it is
“better than going to prison.”

‘Maria threw her arms about the
‘faithful creature’s neck;—“O! Peggy,
“if nobody can find us, we shall be
“quite happy!—do, my dear mamma,
“—my dear Sir, let us set out this mo-
“ment; for, in the morning those ill-
“looking men will be about the house
“again, and then we cannot get out.”

‘I began to entertain a glimmering
‘of hope from what she said, and desired
‘her to explain herself.—“O, Sir! I
“hope you will not be offended; but if
“you do indeed wish for such a retreat,
“I can conduct you to my good mo-
“ther’s poor cottage, where you may be
“safe from any fear of intrusion:—And
“my mother can go to my uncle’s, as
“she would have done long since, only

“ my brother said, she must live in the
 “ cottage to keep it for him. And I
 “ will take any thing you please from
 “ hence to farmer Oldcroft’s, and carry
 “ it there by night as I can; and I
 “ will do every thing in my power to
 “ make you comfortable, till a happier
 “ turn of fortune attends you.”

“ I thank you, Peggy, I see your
 “ scheme is quite agreeable to my wife
 “ and daughter,—it is highly so to me,
 “ and so we will prepare for it immedi-
 “ ately;—but I will take nothing from
 “ hence but a little necessary change of
 “ linen.—Never shall the wretch Frank-
 “ land, say, that I have moved any
 “ thing from this spot till he is paid.”

‘ I instantly desired my wife to prepare
 ‘ for our removal;—I wrote a short letter
 ‘ to Frankland, telling him, that I was
 ‘ going

‘going beyond the reach of him or his
 ‘emissaries.—I enclosed the key of my
 ‘house, and told him I had taken an in-
 ‘ventory of what I had left, and that he
 ‘should be called to a dear account if he
 ‘did not make the best of what he found
 ‘there. This letter, with the key en-
 ‘closed, Peggy took to our neighbour
 ‘Oldcroft’s, with a request that it might
 ‘be delivered to Mr. Frankland the next
 ‘morning.’

‘We waited for her return in the gar-
 ‘den, and then set forward, with each of
 ‘us a bundle to carry, and about mid-
 ‘night we arrived at the humble cot.
 ‘The old inhabitant was much alarmed
 ‘at such an unseasonable intrusion; but
 ‘upon hearing her daughter’s voice, she
 ‘rose to let her in. You may guess her
 ‘surprise to see the whole family.—Peggy
 ‘gave her a short account of the cause;

‘ —she wept for our misfortunes;—but
 ‘ declared herself truly happy if her
 ‘ house could afford us any comfort. She
 ‘ brought forth her homely fare, in the
 ‘ best manner she could; and we set
 ‘ down to her coarse bread and skim
 ‘ cheese, with an appetite not to be
 ‘ described.

‘ Peggy and her mother trimmed up
 ‘ the two beds, (which she happily had)
 ‘ with clean linen, and air’d them; and
 ‘ we retired to rest, heartily fatigued, but
 ‘ much more comfortable in our minds,
 ‘ than we had been since these troubles
 ‘ came upon us. Peggy went to rest with
 ‘ my daughter, and the good old dame
 ‘ sat by the fire the remainder of the
 ‘ night.—In the morning she went to her
 ‘ brother’s to stay as long as we had oc-
 ‘ casion to occupy her house.’

‘ Peggy

‘ Peggy went into the village the next
 ‘ day to buy some necessaries for us, and
 ‘ to enquire for some sewing,—saying
 ‘ she had left her place, and wanted some
 ‘ employment. As she was well known,
 ‘ she succeeded, and brought home half
 ‘ a dozen shirts to make, which put us
 ‘ all in high spirits. My wife and
 ‘ daughter worked with cheerfulness,
 ‘ we lived with great frugality, and com-
 ‘ forted ourselves with an humble re-
 ‘ signation to the allwise disposer of
 ‘ events; trusting, that in his good time,
 ‘ our affairs would take a happier turn,
 ‘ and that we should be delivered from
 ‘ the iron hand of the oppressor.’

CHAP. XIX.

THE PLEASURE OF DOING GOOD.

‘ **F**OR six weeks we lived in this manner:—the maid procured work, took it home, and brought us such necessities as the present state of our finances would permit; and very careful we were of the little money we possessed when we came hither.

‘ It is now a month since my poor wife was seized with a fever, brought on, I apprehend, by the change of circumstances,

‘stances, and manner of living. Since
 ‘that time, my poor girl has been so
 ‘taken up with attendance on her mother,
 ‘ther, and so depressed by her grief,
 ‘that she has been able to do very little
 ‘work; and we have been forced to
 ‘live on the small sum I brought with
 ‘me. I have this day sent the last
 ‘shilling I had to the village, to procure
 ‘something for my dear Eliza:
 ‘(and the tears trickled down his cheeks)
 ‘the rest of us have tasted nothing but
 ‘bread and water for near this fortnight.
 ‘—This, Sir, is my melancholy tale.’

“A melancholy tale, indeed, my good
 “Sir! (said the humane Captain,) I never
 “experienced such a variety of sensations,
 “as while I have been attending
 “to you. Gracious Heaven! that villainy
 “should have been so long predominant,
 “and worth like yours so
 “long

“ long involved in misery!—But come,
 “ Sir, you must and shall oblige me, by
 “ accepting the small matter I have
 “ about me; get something for yourself
 “ and family,—and you shall see me
 “ again to-morrow.” So saying, he
 pressed Mr. Goodwin’s hand, and put his
 purse, containing five guineas, into it, in
 such a manner that he could not refuse it.
 “ I have ladies waiting for me at the
 “ village; I have rather overstaid my
 “ time, but I am sure they will readily
 “ excuse me when they know the reason.
 “ Do you know Colonel Hamilton, of
 “ the Grange, Sir?”

“ I have heard of him, Sir, as one
 “ of the best men living.” “ Your in-
 “ formation was just. I have the ho-
 “ nour of being related to him;—will
 “ you permit me to introduce him and
 “ his excellent lady to you to-morrow?”

“ I

“ I dare say, I cannot keep them away
 “ when they hear your story; and be
 “ assured, my worthy Sir, if it is in the
 “ power of that benevolent family to ex-
 “ tricate you, your troubles will soon be
 “ blown over;—and so fare you well.”

Captain Rainsford hastened back to the Inn; where he found the ladies waiting his return with some impatience. He entertained them with his adventure; and Mrs. Hamilton, as he had supposed, determined to pay them a visit the next morning. Louisa's heart rose with all the violence of indignation, at this instance of Frankland's baseness; and she declared she should think all her future expectancies well bestowed, if such a wretch could be brought to the shame and punishment he so justly deserved.

When

When the affair was related to the Colonel, his cheeks glowed and turned pale alternately with resentment and kind commiseration. As soon as dinner was over, he said, "Harry, will you take an airing with me this afternoon? I was deprived of your company this morning by business."—"Most gladly, Sir."—The horses were at the door in an instant,—and the Colonel mounted with as much eagerness, as Frankland would have done for a day's fox hunting.

They rode some time without speaking a word, when Mr. Hamilton broke the silence. "My dear Harry, you have given me more pleasure to-day than I am able to express. You will think me hasty perhaps, as you have so handsomely supplied the present necessities of these good people, but I cannot sleep till I know whether the affair
" has

“ has been rightly represented to you or
 “ not. If it has, what a couple of vile
 “ unfeeling monsters are Frankland and
 “ the younger Goodwin! I will call and
 “ take my friend Pencraft with me to
 “ Glenfield. You don’t know him; he’s
 “ a reputable attorney whom I employ
 “ as a steward. We will go to an Inn,
 “ enquire about the curate, and the
 “ cause of his leaving the house; and
 “ if the account we hear corresponds
 “ with what he has told you, we will
 “ go to Frankland, and make him re-
 “ ceive his debt, and set the good people
 “ at liberty; and then we can take them
 “ comfortable news to-morrow.”

They arrived at the Inn, called for a
 bottle of wine, and asked the waiter, who
 brought it, the reason of a good house,
 at the end of the village, standing unin-
 habited.—“ I does not know, gentlemen,
 “ for

“for as why, because I have lived here
 “but a little while;—but I hears every
 “body say, as how it is a shame and a
 “pity, to think how the poor gentleman
 “has been drove from it, by a great
 “rich ’Squire in the Neighbourhood.
 “Master knows all about it, and he
 “says the ’Squire and Doctor Gripe will
 “never prosper, nor such another good
 “gentleman ever come into the parish.”
 “Is your Master at home, friend?”—
 “Yes, Sir.”—“Give my service to
 “him, and tell him we should be glad
 “of his company to drink a glass with
 “us.”

The landlord came, his heart was
 opened by the affable freedom of his
 guests and two or three glasses of wine;
 and he told them all he knew, and per-
 haps more. He said the whole parish
 had been in a combustion ever since Mr.

Goodwin

Goodwin had left it;—that nobody knew where he was gone, and the 'Squire was sadly frightened for fear of a law suit;—
 “ for tho' he has a deal of money, gentlemen, he don't like to part with it;
 “ and then Doctor Gripe, who owns this living, was persuaded to turn
 “ Mr. Goodwin out of the curacy, by a
 “ promise of the living of Southcote,
 “ and was told the incumbent was old,
 “ and just at death's door, as a body may
 “ say.—But when our good curate was
 “ driven away, and the church doors
 “ were not opened for a month, some
 “ of the heads of the parish went to
 “ complain to him; and he said, he
 “ could not help it. So they said, they'd
 “ complain to the Bishop; and then he
 “ own'd the whole matter, and begged
 “ them to be patient, and as soon as
 “ the rector of Southcote was dead he'd
 “ make them amends. They told him
 “ the

“ the rector of Southcote was as young
 “ and as likely to live as himself; and
 “ then he fled in a passion and told the
 “ whole affair.”—In short, all he said
 was to the great credit of Mr. Goodwin,
 and coincided with what he had said
 himself, as far as the affair was pub-
 licly known.

When Mr. Hamilton was thus far
 satisfied as to the truth of the informa-
 tion he had received, he and his little
 party proceeded to Frankland's, whom
 they just saw enter his house, as they rode
 into the yard.

Mr. Hamilton sent in his name, and
 was told he was out; he said, he saw
 him go in not two minutes since; that
 he had business of consequence, and
 must see him:—and walk'd into the hall,
 followed by the Attorney and Rainsford.

Whether

Whether Frankland thought Mr. Hamilton was come to call him to account for his behaviour to Miss Forrester, or what were his ideas at that instant, the recorder of this narrative cannot positively determine: but certain it is, he wished to avoid an interview with him at that time.

As the servant opened a parlour door to deliver this second message to him, Mr. Hamilton stepped after him, and looking over his shoulder, saw Frankland rise with evident marks of trepidation, and heard him say, "I am engaged,—I cannot see any body,—I am ill,—I cannot be disturbed."—Mr. Hamilton beckoned the company to follow him, and stepping forward, said, "I ask your pardon, Sir, for my intrusion, but my business is of importance and cannot be deferred; and
" if

“ if you are ill, there is the more ne-
 “ cessity for its being discussed imme-
 “ diately. This gentleman, Mr. Pen-
 “ craft, Sir, is come to wait on you, in
 “ behalf of a client of his, who is some-
 “ thing in your debt.”—“ I don’t know
 “ the gentleman, Sir, nor shall I be
 “ troubled about anybody’s business at
 “ present.”

“ Very well, Sir, (said the Attorney,)
 “ you must do as you please, I shall ex-
 “ ecute my client’s commission; and if
 “ you will not receive the money you lent
 “ Mr. Goodwin, and deliver up his
 “ note, I shall know how to proceed
 “ with you.” He proceeded to tell the
 money, and demanded the note.—
 Frankland began to abuse Mr. Good-
 win in the most brutal and illiberal
 terms, and swore he would ruin him if
 it cost him a thousand pounds. “ Why,
 “ to

"to be sure, Sir, that's a christian-like
 "resolution, and you have a right to
 "spend your money your own way. I
 "should have no objection at all to
 "pocketing a few hundreds of it, as I
 "see you are such a friend to our fra-
 "ternity;—but let me tell you one
 "thing by the way, Sir;—if you spend
 "ten thousand you cannot hurt Mr.
 "Goodwin. He is not now the dis-
 "tressed, unfriended man you think
 "him. He has had a lucky turn in
 "his affairs, and shall litigate the mat-
 "ter with you till you are tired; and so,
 "Sir, will you receive your money or
 "not?—observe well what he says,
 "gentlemen."

"But I have been at the devil and
 "all of expence in bayliffs and at-
 "tendance, and do you think I must
 "be all that out of pocket?"—"Yes,
 "Sir,

“ Sir, and a great deal more, if that does
 “ not content you;—you know, Sir,
 “ you might have been paid, if you
 “ would have waited but one day; you
 “ have been put in possession of affets
 “ to ten times the amount of your de-
 “ mand, and so Sir, let me have your
 “ decision immediately, for my time is
 “ precious. If you refuse, I must state
 “ the case to my client’s counsel to-
 “ night, and we’ll be ready for you,
 “ never fear, Sir. Come, Sir, (shaking
 “ a large canvass bag) may I hope to fill
 “ this with a few of your spare hun-
 “ dreds? you could not bestow them
 “ better; for then you will have the ho-
 “ nour of being known to the kingdom
 “ at large; and your meritorious pro-
 “ ceedings with Mr. Goodwin and
 “ Doctor Gripe, laid open to the eyes
 “ of all men. ’Tis pity Sir, your light
 “ should be hid under a bushel.”

“ Confound

“ Confound you, you pettifogging
 “ rascal!—do you insult me in my own
 “ house?” “ Oh, by no means, my
 “ good Sir, I honour your character.
 “ Gentlemen, you hear what obliging
 “ epithets Mr. Frankland is pleased to
 “ bestow on me,—pettifogging rascal.
 “ I am much obliged to you, Sir! these
 “ words, before two creditable witnesses,
 “ will support an action upon the case,
 “ and I shall have no doubt of reco-
 “ vering considerable damages; and be-
 “ tween me and my worthy client, you
 “ shall have as much law as your noble
 “ heart can wish.—We’ll traverse you
 “ thro’ all the courts in the Kingdom:
 “—and so, Sir, be pleased to let me
 “ have your final determination,—for as
 “ I said before, I cannot stay.”

Frankland stamp’d and swore; but
 finding his passion only produced fresh
 matter

matter for Pencraft's irony, he at last produced Mr. Goodwin's note. The attorney wrote a proper discharge for him to sign, which he did; — it was properly witnessed by Mr. Hamilton and Captain Rainsford;—and they marched off in triumph, while Frankland pursued them with volleys of curses.

They were not got more than a quarter of a mile from his house, when they heard a violent halloo after them; when stopping they were accosted by one of Frankland's grooms, who held up a key, crying, “stop, gentlemen, and take this
 “with you; my master forgot it till you
 “were gone; but he said, you'd may-
 “hap make him *travel* all the *Courts*
 “in the *Kingdom* for it; and so he sends
 “it you, with his hearty curses, and de-
 “sires he may have no more trouble
 “with any of you; for, he says, as how,
 “yo'r’

“yo'r’ a pack of devils in carnage, and
“he’s glad he’s rid on you all.” So say-
ing, he turn’d his horse, and galloped
back, leaving the gentlemen highly di-
verted at the master’s terror, and the
man’s manner of delivering his message.

They returned to the Grange, ex-
tremely satisfied with the event of their
negotiation. They entertained the ladies
with the adventures of the afternoon;
and agreed to be at the cottage with
this agreeable intelligence by eleven the
next day.

But to return to Mr. Goodwin.—As
soon as Captain Rainsford left him, he
examined the contents of the purse, and
returned from the door with tears of
transport trickling down his care-worn
cheeks; and his bosom expanded with
sentiments of gratitude too intense for
utterance,

utterance, to that all benevolent power, who had directed this unknown benefactor to the hopeless house of misery. The little Anna met him, and laid hold of his hand, and looking in his face saw the gushing tears,—“What is the matter, papa?” cried the little prattler, “I hope that gentleman did not come from that naughty Mr. Frankland, that made us leave our good house, and come to this poor place?—If he did, I think my dear mamma will die, and then what shall we do?”—and the tears burst from her little eyes.

“No, my sweet innocent,—this gentleman, I am sure, was sent by God Almighty to comfort us.”—“Was he, papa?—then why do you weep? for God Almighty would not send any body that was wicked.”—“They are tears of joy and gratitude, my child:—

“child:—Come with me, and let us
 “comfort your poor mother and sister.”
 “Yes, papa; but do dry your eyes, or
 “else my dear mamma will be frightened;
 “because I dare say my sister would tell
 “her, there was a gentleman here.”—
 He pressed her to his bosom for her filial
 tenderness,—offered up his thanks
 to Heaven in a fervent ejaculation,—
 dry’d his eyes,—and led her up stairs.

Vol. I.

K

CHAP.

C H A P. XX.

AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF
FORTUNE.

AS he entered the room, Mrs. Goodwin looked at him with an air of timid enquiry, but could not summon up courage to speak. “I understand you
 “ my dear Eliza, — you wish to know
 “ the result of this stranger’s appearance
 “ in our cottage; — let this speak for me,
 “ my love, (shewing her the gold,) it
 “ was presented by such a man, and in
 “ such a manner, as gives double value
 “ to

“to the relief it affords us;—and now
“be comforted, my love, and I will
“give you the particulars at leisure.”

Just as he spoke, Peggy returned from the Village with a chicken and a pint of wine, which was all to have been reserved for Mrs. Goodwin’s nourishment; as her disorder was abated, and she now wanted only proper food and peace of mind.

Mr. Goodwin told the affectionate girl, that he had received a timely supply, —gave her a glass of wine, and sent her to the village with a guinea, to buy such necessaries as she and his daughter thought proper; while Maria began to prepare the chicken for dinner.

Mr. Goodwin related the particulars of Captain Rainsford’s conversation and behaviour to her and her mother; and

by every soothing reflection encouraged them to receive the visitants they were to expect on the morrow, with composure.

It is not in the power of language to describe the gratitude and joy of this worthy family; it was almost more than Mrs. Goodwin, in her weakened state of health, could support. — But after a few hours congratulation of each other on the happy turn of affairs that seemed to await them, and a comfortable meal, their past sufferings began to appear as a dream, from which they were happily awaked.

The next morning they were very assiduous to make their humble habitation as decent as might be. Every thing was clean and neat, and Mrs. Goodwin was dressed and reclined on her
humble

humble bed, when Captain Rainsford, with humanity and rapture sparkling in his eyes, after a gentle rap, opened the door.—Mr. Goodwin met him, “O! “ Sir, how good you are! what a “ change have you wrought in this poor “ cottage;—we are now all full of hope “ and comfort.”—“ Long may those “ benign powers bless your habitation, “ my good Sir, I rejoice to see the al- “ teration in your countenance.—Here “ are the relations I named to you yef- “ terday; they will make good my pro- “ mise, in a fuller manner than I had “ then an idea of.”—So saying, he stepped back and introduced the Colonel, Mrs. Hamilton, and Mrs. Forrester.

The Colonel took Mr. Goodwin by the hand,—“ My dear Sir, I have heard “ your story,—I honour your character, “ —and from the moment my nephew

“gave me an account of the ill treat-
 “ment you have received, I thought
 “it my duty to do all in my power to
 “serve you.—But may we see your good
 “lady?—is she able to hear the recital
 “of what we have been doing?—if she is,
 “we may talk the matter over to-
 “gether.”

“Yes, Sir, my wife, as well as my-
 “self, will think herself honoured by
 “the kind notice you are pleased to
 “take of us in this time of our distress.”
 “If Mrs. Goodwin is able to see us,
 “(said Mrs. Hamilton,) my sister and
 “I must be introduced first; her spirits
 “must not be hurried with too many
 “strangers bursting upon her at once.”
 “You shall have your way, my dear,
 “(said the Colonel,) I know it’s right.”
 Mr. Goodwin shewed the ladies up stairs,
 presented them to Mrs. Goodwin, and
 returned

returned to the gentlemen, telling Maria to let him know when he should introduce them.

Mrs. Goodwin attempted to rise as the ladies approached her, Maria stood by, holding her hand and assisting her. Mrs. Hamilton stepped hastily to her, and tenderly putting her hand upon her shoulder, said, "lie still, my dear Madam, we come to see an invalid; we must positively have no ceremony, or we shall do more harm than good;— we know all your history, and come to give you consolation, not trouble. Two months ago we should have been happy to have known Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, as visiting neighbours; and do not think we are such summer insects, as to be driven away by a wintery storm. — You would not,

“I am sure, had our situations been
“reversed.”

She sat down on the bed, and taking her hand, said, “We are extremely
“happy that my nephew found out
“your retreat, yesterday.—Mr. Hamilton and he are below, waiting for
“your permission to relate a story,
“which I hope will give you, Mr. Goodwin, and this young lady, as
“much pleasure as it has done my sister
“and me.”—Mrs. Goodwin thanked her for the interest she took in their affairs, and told Maria to ask her father to bring the gentlemen up;—they came, and another scene of tender politeness ensued.—The Colonel soon began a detail of his interview with Frankland;—Maria made an excuse to leave the room, to avoid hearing the repetition of

a name, that fill'd her with horror and detestation.

Mrs. Goodwin seemed to receive additional spirits and strength from every incident ; and the concluding scene of the *key*, made her almost forget the weak state to which she was reduced. When she saw *that*, Mr. Goodwin's note, and a formal discharge sign'd by Frankland, —with hands and eyes lifted to heaven, she exclaimed, “ My God, I thank thee !
 “ thou in thy mercy hast raised us up
 “ friends in the time of affliction ; and
 “ we may now again praise thee, with
 “ joyful hearts !— (then turning to the
 “ company,) O gentlemen !—O ladies !
 “ —excuse the overflowings of my soul !
 “ You have delivered us from more
 “ than death,—you have delivered us
 “ from hopeless misery !—now, Mr.
 “ Goodwin, we can return to our house,
 “ —make

“—make the best of our unnecessary
 “moveables,—and you will have time
 “and opportunity to seek for another
 “curacy; and we will take care to live
 “within the income, be it ever so small.”

“Patience, my dear Madam, (said
 “Mrs. Hamilton,) you must not forget
 “that you are yet very weak and far
 “from being recovered;—we must
 “have no precipitation;—I must take
 “upon me the management of your fa-
 “mily for the present. Do you think
 “you could bear to go three miles in
 “a chariot, by to-morrow?” “O Ma-
 “dam, I think I could walk as far to-
 “day.”

“Yes, my good friend, joy is a great
 “exhilarater of the spirits; yet I be-
 “lieve, this delicate frame would sink
 “under the fatigue of an hundred yards.”
 “But

“ But if you think you can bear to be
 “ removed, I will send for you and the
 “ young ladies to-morrow. Mr. Good-
 “ win shall have a horse, and my ne-
 “ phew, I know, will with pleasure be
 “ your conductor; and your servant
 “ may walk if you please. I am impa-
 “ tient to get you from this uncon-
 “ comfortable spot; and when I have you
 “ under my own roof, I hope my en-
 “ deavours will soon restore you to
 “ health and vivacity. I will have no
 “ acknowledgements, — I am pleasing
 “ myself, — and I think you would not
 “ refuse me any happiness, in your
 “ power to bestow.”

“ Indeed, I would not, Madam, I
 “ see the nobleness of your nature; — but
 “ such a family! — ah, Madam, it is too
 “ much!” — “ No, it is not, and so, my
 “ worthy friends, fare you well; and
 “ about

“ about this time to-morrow the chariot
 “ shall be here.—Bring all you have
 “ with you, and let the good old
 “ dame re-enter her mansion.” So saying, she led the way down stairs, without giving time for Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin to express the grateful sensations of their hearts.

Next day the chariot, horse, and Captain Rainsford arrived.—The family in a full flow of spirits and renovated health, were ready for their removal;—and the faithful Peggy bounded after them like a young roe; exulting that her beloved master and mistress were again going to appear in their proper station; and that she had been, in some degree, an instrument of their emerging from their late distress.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXI.

NAVAL ANECDOTES.

WHEN they arrived at the Grange, they found every thing of ease, tenderness, and politeness, beyond their most sanguine expectations. — Mrs. Goodwin was conducted to the apartment prepared for her by Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Forrester; where the former insisted on her reposing herself awhile on the bed;—told her she must be quite at home, and her own servant should attend her; who, as soon as they left

left her, was sent up with such refreshments as Miss Goodwin thought would be most agreeable to her mamma.

Mr. Goodwin and his daughters were welcomed to this house of hospitality in such a manner as made it impossible for them to be otherwise than cheerful and happy. Miss Forrester conceived a friendly partiality for Miss Goodwin, as soon as she heard her story, which was much increased by the mild delicacy, and respectful politeness of her behaviour.

After dinner Maria attended her mother, to see if she was well enough to bear the conversation of this family of friends; saying she was, they all attended her in her room, and Mrs. Hamilton soon told her, it was now time to settle a plan of operation; for it was a shame
the

the house at Glenfield should stand locked up and growing musty any longer. She thought it would be best for Mr. Goodwin's servant to go thither the next day, and she would send a trusty maid of her own, to stay with her and assist her in cleaning and airing; and a man should go with them who might bring back such change of clothes as might be wanted. This was thankfully agreed to; and Miss Forrester said, she must be indulged in assisting Miss Goodwin to attend on her mamma, till she was able to leave her room. This proposal made Mrs. Forrester's eyes sparkle with pleasure.

In the morning the servants set out as was intended; and at breakfast Mr. Goodwin expressed such an earnest desire to see his house, and to hear what was said in the neighbourhood, of this sudden
turn

turn in his affairs, that Captain Rainford proposed accompanying him thither by way of an airing, and taking a whet with their communicative landlord.

This was no sooner mentioned than put in execution; and about twelve o'clock, the Captain and Mr. Goodwin arrived at the Bell, in Glenfield. They found a crowd of people of all denominations in the street, and about the door; and heard a confused murmur of the parson and the 'Squire; when, as they rode up to the gateway, an elderly man ran out of the crowd, and laying hold of Mr. Goodwin's bridle, exclaim'd,

“ thank heaven, that I have liv'd to see
 “ this day !—You're heartily welcome
 “ home again, Sir ; and I'm glad to
 “ hear for once, that *right* has overcome
 “ might, (as they say) —The 'Squire
 “ ~~must~~ hide his head now they say, and it's
 “ no

“ no matter ; for tho’ he be my land-
 “ lord, he’s no better than he shou’d be;
 “ and if we can but have you again,
 “ nobody will care three farthings what
 “ becomes of him.

“ I thank you, my good neighbour,
 “ (said Mr. Goodwin) but I am quite
 “ at a loss to guess your meaning ; if
 “ you mean Mr. Frankland, he has no-
 “ thing to fear from me. All accounts
 “ between us are made even; — I am
 “ coming to my house again,—and shall
 “ never think of pursuing any methods
 “ of revenge against a man, whose inju-
 “ rious treatment of me has turn’d out
 “ so much to my advantage ; and given
 “ me an opportunity of seeing further
 “ into the real characters of men, than I
 “ ever could have done in the sunshine
 “ of prosperity.” — “ Well, Sir, you are
 “ all goodness, and know best what is
 “ right ;

“right ; your example will do us all
 “good, if it is not our own faults.”
 They alighted and went into the house,
 where all was joy and congratulation.

They went to the parsonage, and Mr.
 Goodwin shew'd the Captain the house
 and garden, and made many just re-
 marks on the advantages of adversity.
 “Amongst others, Sir, (said he) to my
 “former afflictions, I owe the valuable
 “acquisition of your friendship, and
 “that of your amiable relations; which,
 “I trust, will be a source of happiness
 “to me, that will end but with my ex-
 “istence.”

They saw the house in a proper train
 of airing and cleaning, and return'd to
 the Grange in high spirits; where they
 found Mrs. Goodwin waiting their re-
 turn with a pleasing anxiety. The even-
 ing

ing was spent in her apartment, and such a happy effect had the change of affairs on her constitution, that she was able the next day to come down to dinner. Maria was all joy and gratitude; — little Anna was blithe and playful as the tender fawn; — Mrs. Goodwin's amiable countenance was irradiated with sentiments too delicate and exalted for expression; but they were understood by every beholder. The proper alteration in their dress made them appear in quite a different light; and the whole family did credit to the taste of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, in the choice of their friends.

After dinner the Colonel said, "this
 "is a day of rejoicing, some music we
 "must have, — I wish we could raise a lit-
 "tle concert. — All the ladies, I pre-
 "sume, can play, but, alas! here is only
 "one instrument to accommodate them.
 "Well,

“ Well, one must play, and the rest
 “ must sing.” “ I have taken care, Sir,
 “ for an additional instrument, (said
 “ Captain Rainsford) for, as Mr. Good-
 “ win and I were ranging over the deso-
 “ late house at Glenfield, I espy’d a
 “ guitar hanging upon the willow:—I
 “ asked if Miss Goodwin played upon it,
 “ and being answered in the affirmative,
 “ I took care to send it amongst the other
 “ necessaries; and, I hope by the care I
 “ have taken of it, it has by this time re-
 “ covered its tone.” Miss Goodwin
 blushed her thanks for this mark of at-
 tention, and the instrument was pro-
 duced.

“ Pray, Captain, (said Mrs. Ha-
 “ milton,) don’t you play on any in-
 “ strument; I never thought to ask you
 “ before.”—“ O yes, Madam, I can
 “ rattle away on the clarinet;—it would
 “ do

“do you good to hear me!—I can
 “boast now there’s no fear of my being
 “put to the trial.—I never thought of
 “my poor clarinet, when I read my
 “uncle’s letter; I should at that time
 “have been deaf to the music of the
 “spheres.” “Then you do play?”
 “Play, Madam! if you had heard me
 “the night after we beat the Spanish
 “Fleet, and took Don Juan de Langara,
 “you’d never have forgot it;—it might
 “not be very fine, perhaps, but it got
 “me wonderful credit at the time.”

“How happened it, my dear Harry,
 “(said Mrs. Hamilton) that you could
 “think of playing at such a busy time?”
 “Why, I’ll tell you, my good aunt;
 “we were extremely busy, as you may
 “suppose, during the action; and when
 “that was over, and the Spanish Ad-
 “miral came on board our ship, and
 “Prince

“ Prince William Henry was told by
 “ my Patron, that it was proper for
 “ him to demand, (or rather to receive)
 “ the sword of the venerable captive,
 “ it would have raised you quite out of
 “ yourself, my noble minded madam,
 “ to have seen the delicate struggle in
 “ the breast of my royal messmate;—to
 “ have beheld the lively exultation that
 “ glowed in his amiable countenance,
 “ and sparkled in his eyes, at the glo-
 “ rious success of the day; softened by
 “ the humane apprehension of giving
 “ fresh pain to a mind already de-
 “ pressed,—which must be the natural
 “ consequence of a well-proved veteran
 “ yielding up the insignia of his pro-
 “ fession to an unfledged youth:—and to
 “ see with what politeness and noble
 “ condescension, he returned it, and bid
 “ him wear it with honour.—Oh! it
 “ gave me such a flow of spirits, that I
 “ could

"could not think of sleeping; but
 "walked upon deck, and celebrated
 "our victory, with the most animated
 "notes I could call from my reed:—
 "whilst the brave sailors danced and
 "huzza'd round me in such a manner,
 "that an uninformed bystander would
 "have thought they had been all bitten
 "by the tarantula. —But pardon me,
 "my respected friends, this is a subject
 "I can never speak of without running
 "into prolixity."

"Your agreeable anecdote needs no
 "apology, Captain, (said Mrs. Forrester)
 "the Royal Midshipman has occupied
 "a warm corner in my heart, and I trust,
 "in the hearts of all his good father's
 "loyal subject, ever since he has ap-
 "peared in public life.—I have a little
 "poem in my possession, which has
 "never yet seen the light, tho' it has
 "been

“ been written some years, in which he
 “ is particularly noticed. It was com-
 “ posed by a friend of mine, and I was
 “ indulged with a copy. The incident
 “ which occasioned it was the death of
 “ Prince Alfred.—The author had her-
 “ self experienced the loss of a lovely
 “ infant; and was therefore qualified
 “ to judge of the feelings of others in
 “ similar circumstances.

“ The production may appear fan-
 “ ciful, as she mentions all the Royal
 “ Family, and makes an allusion to
 “ some flower that bloomed the month
 “ they were born, excepting their Ma-
 “ jesties and the Prince of Wales; to
 “ whom she has appropriated the flow-
 “ ers emblematic of their superior sta-
 “ tion. If it is agreeable to the com-
 “ pany, and Mr. Hamilton will do us
 “ the favour to read it, I will fetch it.”

The

The company were unanimous in their wishes to hear it ;—the Colonel accepted the agreeable task ; — Mrs. Forrester produced the manuscript,—and the Colonel read as follows :

The ROYAL BOUQUET.

TO deck the empress of the main,
In one delicious nosegay bound ;
The choicest blooms that strew the plain,
Diffuse their various odours round.

First, *George*,—the *Crown Imperial* stands,
The grace and guardian of the realm ;
Charlotte, with ever open hands,
Dispenses blessings from the helm.

As the sweet *Lily*, queen of flow'rs,
Spreads wide her fragrance thro' the air ;
Charlotte, supreme in goodness, tow'rs,
Best, fairest, 'midst the good and fair.

218 LOUISA FORRESTER.

A younger *George*; of royal port,
Fit emblem of his father's youth;
Foremost in ev'ry manly sport,
Adorn'd with courage, sense, and truth,

Like the firm *Fleur-de-Lis* he stands,
In secondary lustre bright;
Homage from ev'ry heart commands,
And cheers our eyes with mildest light.

Fred'rick the witty, young, and gay,
Replete with each endearing art;
In foreign minds shall fix his sway,
And captivate each eye and heart,

'Mid August's fragrant high ting'd blooms,
The purple *Sultan* foremost stands;
So *Fred'rick's* name sheds rich perfumes,
O'er Osnaburg's high favour'd lands.

William,—(the name inspires my muse)
The joy of ev'ry British soul;
Thy noble energy diffuse,
Spread thy fair fame from pole to pole.

Our future navies may'st thou guide,
 Successful 'gainst thy father's foes ;
 'Till aw'd by thee, grim war subside,
 And peace each bleeding breast compose.

Sweet Prince ! may'st thou for ever live,
 Recorded in historic page ;
 The meed of well-won praise receive,—
Sweet William ! bloom from age to age !

As the *Autumnal Rose* displays
 Her fragrant buds to frowning skies,
 Smiles on the Sun's diminish'd rays,
 And zephyr with her sweets supplies,

So smiles young *Charlotte*, beauty's queen,
 Surpassing ev'ry May-born flower ;
 As April's mildest morn serene,
 Yet fearless of dread winter's power.

Edward ! oh, name for ever dear !
 May'st thou our conqu'ring armies lead ;
 The *Laurel* twin'd with *Olives* wear,
 Of Albion's foes the scourge and dread.

220 LOUISA FORRESTER.

Augusta, as the *Star-Flow'r* bright,
 'Mid stern November's blasts shall stand;
Eliza cheer, like May, the fight,
 And scatter *Myrtles* o'er the land.

Ernest, the sweetest flower of June,
 With *Pansies* shall bestrew the plain;
Augustus, crown'd with *Violets*, tune
 To love and joy, the sprightly strain.

Adolphus, like *Narcissus*, blooms
 In infant innocence array'd;
 The *Lily of the Vale* perfumes
 The breast of *Mary*, princely maid.

Sophia, like the *Ilex*, stands
 Smiling at winter's dreary frown;
 While sweet *Octavius'* little hands,
 With early *Snow-Drops* weave a crown.

September frown'd on *Alfred's* birth,
 ; Britannia's genius weeping, cry'd,
 His spirit's too refin'd for earth,—
 Can *Alfred's* soul in clay reside

As the *Tree-Primrose*, transient flower,
Opes its fair foliage, fades, and dies ;
So *Alfred* blooms a short-liv'd hour,
Then hastens to his native skies,

Stream ev'ry eye ! throb ev'ry breast !
Let sympathetic sorrow flow !
Tho' *Alfred* gains the realms of rest,
What pangs his royal parents know.

Illustrious mourners ! Heaven sustain
Your spirits in this trying hour !
May resignation sooth each pain,
Inflicted by Almighty power !

"Not lost (your Son,) but gone before,"
To his bright mansion in the sky ;
And late may your blest spirits soar,
To join him in the realms on high.

The concluding stanzas drew the tear
of affectionate sympathy from every eye.
Mrs. Forrester received the thanks of the
company, and they proceeded to their

little concert, which was truly pleasing to all parties.

Miss Forrester exerted her musical abilities as usual, and pleased as she always did; but Miss Goodwin's voice and finger opened a new source of delight. Her voice was soft and her taste exquisite, and a gentle timidity diffused itself thro' her performance,—which, whilst it seemed to conceal her excellence, added grace to every strain; the depression of her spirits was removed, and she became the delight of the family.

END OF VOL. I.

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